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USSR Report

CONSUMER GOODS AND DOMESTIC TRADE

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CONTENTS

CONSUMER GOODS PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

- Contact Lens Shortage Blamed on Bureaucracy
(V. Vladimirov, N. Mokrishchev; TRUD, 6 Jan 85)..... 1
- Shortages, Poor Quality in Children's Footwear Reported
(KOMMERCHESKIY VESTNIK, No 19, Oct 84; IZVESTIYA,
2 Dec 84)..... 5
- Consumer Dissatisfaction in Kazakhstan, by E. Zhukenova,
A. Obayeva
Industrial Planning Deficiencies, by L. Ochakovskaya

HOUSING AND PERSONAL SERVICE

- Proposed Improvements in USSR Public Eating Enterprises
(MOLOCHNAYA PROMYSHLENNOST', No 10, Oct 84)..... 11
- Newspaper Correspondents Join Repair Services Test
(N. Golovkova; NEDELYA, No 48, 26 Nov-2 Dec 84)..... 14

CONSUMER SECTOR POLICY AND ECONOMICS

- Ukrainian Meat, Dairy Minister on Achieved Goals
(V. K. Solomakha; MYASNAYA INDUSTRIYA, No 10, Oct 84)..... 22
- LiSSR Local Industry Minister on Economic Experiment Results
(G. Simenenko; EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA, No 52, Dec 84)..... 27
- More Meat By-products, Better Industrial Equipment Urged
(Yu. A. Krokha; MYASNAYA INDUSTRIYA, No 10, Oct 84)..... 30
- Repair Service Improvements in Textile Industry Implemented
(V. A. Zikeyev; TEKSTIL'NAYA PROMYSHLENNOST', No 10,
Oct 84)..... 38

FOOD PROCESSING AND DISTRIBUTION

Need To Improve Milk Handling Discussed
(TRUD, 26 Oct 84; NEDELYA, No 42, 15-21 Oct 84)..... 43

Reaction in Tashkent, by M. Shteynberg
Problem Concerns Readers

Shortcomings in Public Catering Facilities Described
(Alyevtina Solov'yeva, NEDELYA, No 50, 10-16 Dec 84)..... 48

CONSUMER GOODS PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

CONTACT LENS SHORTAGE BLAMED ON BUREAUCRACY

Moscow TRUD in Russian 6 Jan 85 p 2

[Article by V. Vladimirov and N. Mokrishchev, TRUD special correspondents, Donetsk and Moscow: "Where Are Contact Lenses To Be Had?"; passage rendered in all capital letters printed in boldface in source]

[Text] DOWING TO BUREAUCRATIC DELAYS IN FOUR MINISTRIES, FOUR MILLION PEOPLE NEEDING OPTICAL CORRECTION CANNOT OBTAIN VERY SCARCE CONTACT LENSES.

A well-known scientific associate at one of the institutes in Donetsk--German Sergeyevich Dedovets--shared his impressions of a trip to the Izyum optical mechanics plant.

"Isn't it an outrage," he said in exasperation. "There are terrible lines for contact lenses at the clinics while in Izyum the machine-shop for production of such lenses is at a stillstand. Moreover, it is equipped with expensive imported machinery and there are highly-qualified specialists on the staff of the machine-shop. Now instead of doing their job--producing very scarce contact lenses--they spent weeks sweeping the yard at the plant. A paradoxical lack of accountability!"

Hearing him one remembered that in optical correction laboratories those wishing to obtain contact lenses are confronted with a wait of up to a year and a half. But for many contact-lens correction is the only solution. Spectacles are of no help in some ocular disorders. The most widespread case of a need for contact lenses is that in myopia of a high degree. Let us take as another example the removal because of injury of the crystalline lens so that the vision in the healthy eye is incompatible with that in the one operated on. A. Kivayev, director of the All-Union Center for Contact-Lens Optical Correction, once said that, according to medical findings, over 4 million persons now need contact lenses. And with all that, the machine-shop at Izyum is at a stillstand

We are traveling to Izyum along with V. Ivanitskiy, head of the optical correction laboratory, Donetsk Oblast Hospital. Like many other specialized opticians, he must come face to face with patients, as it were. And has to respond regretfully that they cannot be helped in the near future. He can cite a whole series of reasons. For one, there is an instrument known as the di-optometer. When a contact lens is fitted for a specific patient, the optical strength of the lens is measured using this instrument. Ten of them are produced each year. Thus, not everyone, by any means, can have this instrument at his disposal. How can one manage without it, though? The way Ivanitskiy does, by adapting the old instruments designed for eyeglasses. Naturally the quality is not the same, but at least it is a kind of solution. In the labs, after all, there is a shortage of so-called block polymethyl methacrylate, the basic material for contact lenses. Polishing suspension cannot be had. Ivanitskiy, for example, uses "Pomorin" toothpaste instead

As it turned out, everything was as Dedovets had said in Izyum. To be sure, V. Taran, the plant's head engineer, tried to "put things in a good light;" he said that things were going better. However, the first talk with workers and master craftsmen at the optical machine-shop brought up everything.

"Last year we assembled spectacle frames for two months in a row instead of producing lenses," optician V. Dmitrenko reported.

"For some days in July the machine-shop was completely closed down," her colleague G. Nepchatova added.

"What is wrong?" we asked L. Dzyadevich, the engineer who is acting head of the machine-shop.

"The machine-shop makes contact lenses of two varieties, hard and soft," he explained. "There were no orders sent us for hard lenses. But the Scientific Research Institute for Polymers in Dzerzhinsk is only beginning to produce the basic material for soft lenses. . . .

"But doesn't anyone need hard lenses?" we ask V. Ivanitskiy.

"They are still needed," he sighs.

"Then what is wrong?" we persist.

"Ask our administrators on the central boards and in the ministries. Maybe they can clarify the situation for you."

In order to understand all these paradoxes correctly, we decided on return from Izyum to inquire at the ministries connected with the problem of contact lenses. Regarding the Ministry of the Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry and the Ministry of the Chemical Industry, everything was more or less

clear. The former installs inadequate apparatus in the laboratories of the USSR Ministry of Health without providing spare parts for the machines in the right way. The latter forces the laboratories to use "Pomorin" toothpaste for lens polishing and up to now has not begun mass production of the basic material for soft contact lenses.

But where the USSR Ministry of the Medical Industry and the USSR Ministry of Health were concerned, the real optical detective story began. The two ministries became enmeshed in mutually conflicting claims. We talked often with A. Moskvichev, chief of the Main Administration of Therapeutic and Prophylactic Aid, USSR Ministry of Health; A. Kivayev, director of the All-Union Center for Contact-Lens Optical Correction and L. Lozovik, chief specialist in the Department of Price Improvement and Price Formation, Central Scientific Organization of Labor and Administration of Production (both also from the USSR Ministry of Health); subsequently we met with the head of the chief construction technology department for ocular contact lenses at the "Med-oborudovaniye" scientific production combine, V. Apryatkin and D. Zhuchin, chief of the planning and economics department of the "Soyuzmedinstrument" combine (both officials from the USSR Ministry of the Medical Industry). And here, in brief, is the subject of the contact-lens narrative that unfolded before us.

After the purchase of imported apparatus and the organization of a machine-shop for the manufacture of contact lenses at the Izyum optical mechanics plant, the Ministry of the Medical Industry began to expect orders from the Ministry of Health. But none came in.

L. Lozovik thinks that there were three reasons why no orders were placed (if only the objective ones are considered).

First, expense. The contact-lens optical correction laboratories work by the self-reimbursement principle. Retail prices for making up the contact lenses are already set and there is no basis for changing them. Thus, if lenses are bought from the Izyum plant, the laboratory personnel works for nothing.

Second, according to the trials made of first small batches of the Izyum lenses, many laboratory administrators became convinced that they received different lenses than they had ordered. They were not being sent what they needed. In other words, no ordering system had been worked out by the Ministry of the Medical Industry.

Finally, whereas the lenses from the plant were supposed to excel the laboratory-made lenses in quality, having been produced with foreign machinery, the quality of the Izyum plant's products was not good. And indeed, fractions of a micron play a part in contact-lens optical correction.

With this the distribution of contact-lens optical correction in the USSR practically came to a halt. Instead of reviewing the price of sets after a year, the Ministry imposed it on lenses for patients and kept in effect their provisional prices to unlimited periods. That is, it created permanent prices. The USSR Ministry of Health agreed to this negligently. It now tries to achieve lower wholesale prices, trying to rectify the error, but the Ministry of the Medical Industry has not yet agreed to this. Its refusal is based on the expectation that the machine-shop in Izyum would then no longer be cost-effective.

L. Lozovik views the following as a solution:

We are proposing to the Ministry of the Medical Industry that they lower wholesale prices, although there will be temporary losses, lasting for two years. This would cause a diminution in the cost-effectiveness of the entire Izyum plant amounting to fractions of a percent. At the same time the machine-shop for contact-lens optical correction will receive orders in quantities great enough for two-shift work on the machinery; a schedule taken into account in installation. Then the cost price of the lenses will fall and the machine-shop will again begin to make a net profit. These are elementary economic calculations and we are prepared to carry out computations. In the final analysis the Ministry of the Medical Industry will suffer losses in any case if the present conditions persist, under which expensive equipment is underutilized and even stands idle

Yet the Ministry of the Medical Industry stubbornly refuses to agree. But why, in particular? Does it have better proposals? Up to now, not a single constructive suggestion has come from this ministry. And the time to exchange proposals has been neglected. The USSR Council of Ministers' resolution "Measures toward the Provision of the Population with Contact Lenses for Optical Correction" was adopted in 1976. Since that time it has been eight years. . . . The resolution has not yet been realized. Millions of patients stand waiting at the doors of laboratories for contact-lens optical correction.

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CONSUMER GOODS PRODUCTION & DISTRIBUTION

SHORTAGES, POOR QUALITY IN CHILDREN'S FOOTWEAR REPORTED

Consumer Dissatisfaction in Kazakhstan

Moscow KOMMERCHESKIY VESTNIK in Russian No 19, Oct 84 p 34

[Article by E. Zhukenova, senior scientific associate, Kazakh branch, VNIKS, and A. Obayeva, junior scientific associate: "The Little One is Walking..."]

[Text] As soon as a child starts to stand, Mama has an additional concern: the child needs shoes. And every mother wants to buy the most beautiful and the smartest shoes for her child; but frequently disappointment awaits them at the store: either there are no shoes in the size required; or the quality of manufacture is poor; or they are of unbecoming dark colors; or they are simply not comfortable.

According to the data, almost 34 per cent of the consumers of Kazakhstan cannot get the shoes they need for their preschool children.

A survey conducted by the Kazakh branch of VNIKS-[All Union Scientific Research Institute of Consumer Demand and Market Conditions] showed that the principal reason for this situation is the lack of certain kinds and sizes of shoes for sale. Unable to purchase felt boots were 79.8 per cent of the purchasers; 58 per cent were unable to buy booties; and 54 per cent were unable to buy boots and half-boots, neither the insulated nor the non-insulated kind. Unable to find the right size shoes were 26.4 per cent of the consumers; 18.5 per cent were unable to find the right size house slippers; 15 per cent, the right size sandals and sandlets; overshoes, 12.8 per cent; boots and half-boots, insulated and uninsulated, 10.6 per cent.

As far as quality is concerned, many are disappointed in the way the children's shoes and oxfords are sewn. The models are unstylish with flat, faded finishes. The purchasers are complaining about the materials used for making winter and summer shoes, both the upper part and the soles.

Consumer complaints and the high proportion of unsatisfied demand for shoes for pre-schoolers are brought about by the fact the production lags behind the demand for them. Manufacturing of children's shoes in the republic is

growing slowly. Whereas 7.1 million pairs of leather shoes were produced in 1978, in 1982 7.9 million pairs were produced. For certain kinds production is even declining (for high-top shoes, oxfords and loafers). Production of hussar-style boots is especially low: and production of oxfords and loafers has declined from 206,000 to 126,000 pairs. Industry is fulfilling the plan for the most part by virtue of house slippers and sports shoes; but those models which are of complex design or technology are not being produced in significant numbers.

The republic's share of production in the overall volume of resources is declining from year to year. Whereas in 1979 children's shoes amounted to 60.3 per cent of the production, in 1982 the figure was 55.2 per cent--and even lower for certain types.

As far as size is concerned, the footwear enterprises try to produce the large sizes for children (19.5-20.0); since the wholesale prices for them are higher, production of small sizes is at the same time reduced.

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Industrial Planning Deficiencies

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Dec 84 p 3

[Article by L. Ochakovskaya, special IZVESTIYA correspondent: "Give the Hussar His 'Gusariki'": "Why There Aren't Any Children's Shoes on the Store Shelves"; passages printed in all capital letters rendered in boldface in source]

[Text] A son was born to an acquaintance of mine. They named him Denis. Her colleagues got together and bought a present for the child--a pair of green overalls with bright red stripes for outdoor wear, and a pair of knitted booties for his "first outing", and sent it to the new mother with the note: "To Denis, who although not a Davydov [ref. to 18th century poet and military man], but undoubtedly also a hussar". They are right about that.

Our hussars and their girlfriends do not grow by the day, but by the hour. And they don't really need booties, but altogether different shoes--"gusariki" [little hussar boots] as they are called. Later come "opanochki" [type of light slippers], children's shoes, youth boots, etc. These are the official names for children's shoes on the manufacturer's footwear list--the same shoes that are so difficult to buy today in the store.

Late last year in IZVESTIYA (No. 341/342), L.N. Chalaya, director of the Moscow trade firm "Detskiy Mir" [Children's World] responded to questions from purchasers. Her item was entitled, "How Our Children Are Dressed". Among the topics covered was the fact that there aren't enough children's shoes for sale, especially seasonal shoes, and especially during the season.

Early this year we returned to this topic again (No. 94/95). This was the readers' commentaries on the answer received from T. Levina, RSFSR deputy minister of light industry. The commentary is critical because--although the answer reported that millions of pairs of children's shoes were offered for sale--as before, the stores had only children's felt boots in the summer, but had none in the fall.

Letters to the editor kept coming in from the papas and mamas. They complained that they were able to buy neither boots nor open-toe shoes for their children. And so I took these letters to the competent authorities at RSFSR and USSR Minlegprom [Ministry of Light Industry], and to RSFSR Mintorg [Ministry of Trade]. And I asked each person in authority one and the same question: Why are there no children's shoes for sale? And each responded from his own position.

The First Position

I went to L. Puzynya, chief of the "Rosobuv'prom" [Republic Footwear Manufacturing] Association, RSFSR Minlegprom, because the vast majority of the "shoe" letters in our mail were from the oblasts and krais of Russia. But I did not detect a great deal of alarm at "Rosobuv'prom". The impression was that the letters from the mamas and the papas, the empty shelves in the shoe departments of children's stores, and the figures in the reports from Minlegprom--are separate events. And what did I find out? That of 37 enterprises in the European part of Russia, 28 produce children's shoes. This year, according to the plan, they should produce 86.3 million pairs of children's shoes. "Of course," said Leonid Vasil'yevich, "Not everything is smooth with us, but our difficulties do not concern children's shoes; here we are fulfilling the plan precisely. In 1985, in accordance with the contracts, the shoe manufacturers of Russia will provide 87.6 million pairs of shoes to the children".

Oh my, those magic millions and thousands! Oh my, these inspiring figures! And what's more, they are in earnest. Then why does a mother of two children (ages, 5 years and 1 year), O.V. Guseva from Kurgan, and E.A. Lifshits from Gomel', who has a school-age daughter; O. Barsukova, grandmother of a small child from Nal'chik; I.A. Shul'gina, the mother of a first-grader from Alma Ata; L. Shamko from Balakhna in Gor'kiy Oblast; and many others who have sent letters to us--why can not one of them find a single pair of shoes for their children in the city? Why does this happen? Leonid Vasil'yevich Puzynya answered simply, "I don't know, and I won't try to explain; we're doing everything in order that there are shoes".

Evgeniy Bykhovskiy, deputy chief of the administration for development of the shoe, leather and leather goods industry of USSR Minlegprom, is certain that the country's light industry is COMPLETELY FULFILLING THE PLANS for children's shoes. And in accordance with them is COMPLETELY fulfilling deliveries of children's shoes to trade. "It's true this doesn't mean," he said, "that we are fulfilling the ORDERS from trade. After all that is beyond our capabilities; they are one-and-a-half times greater than the production capacities of our enterprises. Therefore, this year as well, even in overfulfilling the plan for production of children's shoes, we can fill the orders from trade by only 91.5 per cent.

"Moreover, not all shoemaking enterprises operate equally well. A number of enterprises in RSFSR, Ukraine and Kazakhstan are not fulfilling their plans, and their lags must be covered at the expense of the best production in the Russian Federation, and also with the help of the shoe factories and associations in Kirgiziya, Armeniya, Tadzhikistan, Belorussia and Azerbaijan. This, of course can create neither an abundance nor a surplus. But, I repeat, WE ARE FULFILLING the plan".

"Why was there a shortage? Chiefly because of the fact that trade has improperly formulated orders for children's shoes by separate age groups. But even that is not all. In the general order form from trade for shoes, of which children's shoes comprise 40 per cent, three lines are delineated for them: shoes, children's; booties; and shoes, dress. There is no breakdown for styles, ages, seasonal needs and so on. One increasingly forms the following conclusion: under conditions of a general shortage of shoes, a sniper's accuracy is required in formulating the order and in its precise fulfillment. This is the direct responsibility of both trade and industry. We must know one another's needs and work with mutual responsibility. And in order to eliminate the deficit for this year, industry has received an additional assignment--to manufacture three million more pairs of children's shoes. It is a matter of honor for the enterprises to fulfill this additional assignment".

The Second Position

And now, to RSFSR Mintorg, to B. Korneyev, chief of the "Rosobuv'torg" [Republic Shoe Trade] association.

"Thus far a number of supplier enterprises," he relates, "have not fulfilled their plan for assortment, especially for 'gusariki', children's and little girls' shoes for school. They are covering up for this nonfulfillment by means of manufacturing house slippers. And this is why today not a single store in a single oblast of the RSFSR has a sufficient supply of leather shoes for children. Moreover, the shortage of shoes in the required assortment in trade has been increasing from quarter to quarter for a long time. If you need figures, you're welcome to them: for the first half of 1984, enterprises of RSFSR Minlegprom have failed to supply 1.4 million pairs of street shoes, that is, the most important kind of children's shoes. At the same time, they have oversupplied, if one can put it that way, 1.142 million pairs of cloth house slippers. And that's how the plan was fulfilled. The following have failed to supply sufficient children's shoes: the "Skorekhod" association in Leningrad, as well as the associations in Krasnoyarsk, Kostroma, Kuybyshev, Gor'kiy, and so on".

And today? Right now?

Let's ask A. Shashkina. She is the chief of the assortment and quality section for leather shoes at "Rosobuv'torg". And here's what Anna Petrovna said: "In terms of quality of children's shoes, as opposed to shoes for adults, we have no complaints for industry whatsoever; only in terms of amount and assortment. For nine months this year, that is to 1 October, we have received 652,000 fewer pairs of children's leather shoes than the plan calls for; at the same time 1.2 million pairs of house slippers have been 'shifted' to us".

"And what of the additional assignment which light industry was given? Where are the three million additional pairs, of which it was said that manufacturing them is a matter of honor to the enterprise"?

"I don't know. Thus far the plan is still unfulfilled; they are having trouble getting a few thousands together, and we haven't received a thing from industry from the additional assignment".

And so, we have heard from both sides. And the figures of which one side is so proud appeared as a reproach on the lips of the other. Each spoke from his own position, and stuck to it firmly.

The Third Position

But I, you see, went to them to ask a question from a third position: from the consumer's position--from the position of the very child for whom they doing the manufacturing and marketing. The moreso, since we do have enterprises which also take this position, who can serve as an example of overcoming all difficulties. The "Zarya" shoe-manufacturing association in Moscow manages to systematically produce outstanding children's footwear, while overfulfilling the plan. Hero of Socialist Labor Grigoriy Vasil'yevich Mukhanov, who has won the USSR State Prize and is a deputy of the Moscow Soviet, is general director of the association. In both Minlegprom and Mintorg they describe him as "our best director". His firm, famous throughout the land as well as abroad, can fulfill and overfulfill the plan even for expensive shoes; but here are the figures: whereas production of children's shoes in the country with respect to all other kinds amounts to 41.6 per cent of the plan, at Mukhanov's firm 50 per cent of all production is in children's footwear. It's not profitable for production, for it costs little and enterprises are not well-disposed to it, because it reduces their financial indicators: the plan, you see, is not only approved in terms of pairs, but in rubles as well. If you provide a lot of children's shoes, you won't get many rubles for them. And if house slippers come off the flow line rather than oxfords and high-top shoes--well, the cost is almost the same, but there's a lot less fuss; and for materials--leather alone--what a saving! And what of bedroom slippers? You can put on three pairs and they will not take the place of a warm pair of boots. -But this does not bother the directors much. But it bothers Mukhanov. Therefore, production of the well-known "Moskvichok" and "Zarya" children's boots has been increased to 150,000 pairs per year; therefore they invented the children's oxfords here called "opanochki", and so on.

"Zarya" renews its assortment of children's footwear every year by 70 per cent and every year fulfills and overfulfills planned deliveries: in this year alone, "Zarya" furnished to "Detskiy Mir" 1 million pair of leather shoes above the plan. And that is how one of the best enterprises in the land operates--and thereby, all other things being equal, proves that one can operate thus.

Quite a bit is said of the difficulties of industry. One can say even more. There are a lot of problems, but why does the purchaser have to know about them? He has to go to the store and buy shoes. And trade also has its problems. First of all they must supply the stores with the required number and assortment of children's shoes. And secondly, they must implement strict control over the quality of the products they receive. "It is namely trade," Comrade K.U. Chernenko said at a session of the CPSU Central

Committee Politburo, "that must erect a reliable barrier to the penetration of poor quality goods into the shops, and must always defend the interests of the consumers, adhering to every principle".

In RSFSR Mintorg there is a mass of documents which give evidence to the manner in which they are trying to solve these problems: they hold meetings; they travel to the enterprises; at Mintorg board meetings they present complaints to Minlegprom; and they write tearful and angry letters to many departments. Thus far the results are few.

The readers know this very well. They, of course, do not undertake to give advice to specialists on production and trade. But one thing our readers know very well--it's time for these specialists to get together. Not to present complaints to one another, but to understand what must be done in order for there to be children's shoes, and so that there are a lot of them. And finally, to dress our hussars in "gusariki", in beautiful, comfortable, soft and light oxfords, boots, shoes and sandals--in such as those produced by "Zarya" in Moscow, by "Masis" in Erevan, and "Luch" in Minsk. This is and shall be the genuine answer to our readers.

And for the time being the editors will maintain special control over all letters about shortages in children's shoe stores.

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HOUSING AND PERSONAL SERVICE

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS IN USSR PUBLIC EATING ENTERPRISES

Moscow MOLOCHNAYA PROMYSHLENNOST' in Russian No 10, Oct 84 pp 29-31

[Article: "Expanding Public Food Services"]

[Text] Having examined the question of measures to expand the public eating network in the meat and dairy industry during the 11th Five-Year Plan, the collegium of the USSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry and the Central Committee Presidium of the Food Industry Workers' Trade Union pointed out in their resolution that the union republic ministries of the meat and dairy industry, all-union industrial associations and enterprise collectives have performed definite work with the trade union committees to further improve and organize the public eating of workers and employees directly in the factory while these bodies have been fulfilling the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress regarding a steady rise in national prosperity.

The network of workers' canteens and dispensing canteens (buffets) in enterprises was increased by 15,413 places and the providing of workers and employees with them reached 93 percent of the norm as a result of measures adopted during 1981-1983.

The collectives of the Slonim and Kazan meat combines were awarded AUCCTU certificates and monetary bonuses during 1981-1982 for successes achieved in organizing public eating.

Meanwhile, the directors of a number of union republic ministries of the meat and dairy industries; industrial and production associations; enterprises; republic, kray, oblast, and city trade union committees; and association and enterprise trade union committees are underestimating the importance of developing and improving the organization of the workers' public eating directly in a factory -- as an important link in the system of economic and social measures aimed at further improving worker health and labor organization, decreasing losses of work time and increasing labor productivity through this.

Hot meals for workers and employees have not been arranged in almost a third of the enterprises in the branch.

canteens during the first three years of the 11th Five-Year Plan was only 88 percent for the USSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry (48 percent for the Belorussian SSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry, 64 percent for the Kazakh SSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry, 79 percent for the Georgian SSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry, 30 percent for the Moldavian SSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry, 25 percent for the Latvian SSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry, and 39 percent for the Estonian SSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry).

The feeding of workers in small dairy branch collectives is poorly organized in the Kuybyshev, Omsk, Orel, Mordovian, Sverdlovsk, and Tyumen oblasts and in the Dagestan ASSR.

In many enterprises, distributing canteens have been located in adapted premises which do not satisfy medical and technical requirements and which are not sufficiently equipped with commercial technological equipment, implements and dishes. Hot dinners are delivered from public catering enterprises in an untimely fashion, their quality is low, and the variety of dishes is narrow. As a rule, the delivery of breakfast before the beginning of a work shift is not being organized in distributing canteens.

In many enterprises, the products of their own subsidiary farms are not being used to improve the assortment of dishes and the quality of food, and a significant number of workers are not enjoying the services of public catering.

Questions, connected with the supplying of workers with dietetic nourishment, are not being solved in a number of enterprises.

The economic directors and trade union committees of enterprises are making poor use of the capabilities for organizing commercial and everyday services for workers directly in a factory. Only three percent of the enterprises have culinary stores and departments for the sale of prepared food and culinary and confectionary items.

Enterprise trade union committees are not delving deeply enough into the work of canteens, buffets and commercial enterprises to solve questions connected with improving the organization of public eating and with the elimination of existing shortcomings. People's control commissions and groups are operating poorly in a number of enterprises.

The Collegium of the USSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry and the Central Committee Presidium of the Food Industry Workers' Trade Union have directed the attention of the RSFSR, Kazakh SSR, Georgian SSR, Lithuanian SSR, Moldavian SSR, and Turkmen SSR ministries of the meat and dairy industry to the inadequacy of the measures that have been adopted to expand the network of workers' canteens, bring the number of places in them up to the established norm, and create the necessary conditions for improving the organization of public eating at enterprises within their jurisdiction.

It was proposed that the union republic ministries of the meat and dairy industry; all-union industrial associations; and republic, kray, oblast, and city trade union committees:

With the participation of the union republic and autonomous republic ministries of trade and the kray and oblast public catering administrations, examine the state of organization of the workers' and employees' public eating in the enterprises under their jurisdiction, especially in enterprises with small collectives, and define concrete periods and measures for supplying the workers with hot food and for providing the necessary commercial and everyday services at the factory;

In the collective contracts and plans for the social development of the labor collectives, stipulate specific obligations for the administration in expanding seats in canteens, opening commercial and everyday services enterprises, and providing hot food to the workers and employees of all shifts and sections and those living in hostels; and take steps to improve dietetic nourishment, increase the service standards of the workers and increase the output of produce from the subsidiary farms;

With the participation of the work collectives, carry out on a broader basis the construction and reconstruction of canteens, culinary stores and service enterprises; and use the fund for social and cultural measures and housing construction for these purposes more actively;

Improve public control over the operation of canteens, buffets, stores, and service enterprises; provide practical help to the people's controllers; and study and disseminate the work experiences of the best people's control commissions and groups and enterprises that have achieved the best results in the work to organize the public eating of workers at the factory.

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HOUSING AND PERSONAL SERVICES

NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS JOIN REPAIR SERVICES TEST

Moscow NEDELYA in Russian No 48, 26 Nov-2 Dec 84 pp 6-7

[Investigation led by N. Golovkova. Article: "Sew on a Button! How Small Repairs Become a Big Nuisance"]

[Text] It has long been noted that nothing irritates us so much as the so-called little things. In this case it is the little things of everyday life. Well, just imagine: you are hurrying off to work, and along the way a heel flies off. If you take the time to go back and change your shoes, you fall into the ranks of the violators of labor discipline. Or, let's say you have broken the lock on your shopping-bag, and you are standing at the cashier's, hopelessly tugging at your "zipper," attempting to fish out your purse, while the line in back of you is becoming annoyed. Or that miserable hole in your pocket from which the keys to the house have fallen out; all in all, it's enough to give you a heart attack.

But, really, why all this fuss and bother? Just duck into the nearest shoe-repair or clothing-repair and tailoring shop, where the service workers will help you out of your trouble. On the other hand, are they always prepared to respond to such small requests? To clear this matter up, we asked our correspondents to drop in to the nearest clothing-repair shops--in order to have them sew on a button, patch up a hole, stitch up a torn cuff of a pants leg: in general, to perform what is called "small repairs." And here is how these trips turned out.

Yuriy PEREPL'ETKIN (Tyumen):

My good friend, who had flown in from the North, entered the room with an unpleasant expression on his face, and instead of greeting me he asked for a needle. Naturally, I expressed an interest in what had happened. He showed me his torn pants leg and with a frown looked into the eye of the needle: along the way he had caught his pants leg on a nail. That evening he had a meeting at the main administration, but he had no other pair of trousers with him: he had only flown here for a couple of days.

"You should have dropped in to a tailor's shop," I advised him, seeing his clumsy attempts to cope with the needle.

"I spent half a day wandering around such places," he growled in reply. "All in vain."

"That cannot be so," the Tyumen patriot in me prompted me to say. "We have repair shops every few steps."

"Just try," my friend recommended sarcastically.

The nearest clothing-repair shop was at the intersection of Lenin and Pervomay-skiy Streets. There was a sharp smell of paint in the room: that meant that the place was being repaired. But the institution was functioning. However, when I began to say something about that insidious nail, they looked at me as if I were some kind of strange sight. It turned out that this is not simply a clothing-repair shop but rather "Lyudmila," which means that it is only for women. My statement to the effect that, in our times, jeans are worn not only by men but also by women was not met with understanding.

On Geologorazvedchikov Square at the "Trikotazhnitsa" Shop they suggested, instead of repairs, that I have them...knit a pants-suit, while at the Severyan-ka" they refurbish fur coats. The weather was slushy, and, gradually penetrated by a belated sympathy for my friend, I dragged myself further along, ignoring the sewing-and-darning establishments that catered to women. I passed by the "Sibiryachka," and hurried by the "Gratsiya." I turned on- to Kotovskiy Street and headed for a shop with the masculine name "Landysh." Three charming girls, who were not busy with anything, made it clear to me that the "Landysh" specializes in embroidery. However, they did advise me to turn to the "Sibir'" House of Everyday Services.

There I found stylish staircases and a splendid decor and a large diagram, similar to the board at a chess match, where, like the move of a rook, you can determine which master craftsman awaits you, as well as on what day and hour. Three of them were engaged in the repair of men's clothing. In the boxes opposite two of the names there were empty, white spaces. And so it was possible to meet with the master craftsman N. Grebennikova--to be sure, a few hours later.

In order to utilize the time reasonably, I dropped in at the "Salon of Semi-Finished Garments" on the corner of Respublika and Kholodil'naya Streets. And again the insignificance of my request irritated the persons in charge. They suggested that I purchase a pair of almost-finished pants, try them on, and if something did not quite fit, a master tailor would quickly make the necessary alterations....

"I don't need pants," I said, "I already have some. It's just that one got a bit torn, and, surely, the master craftsmen can also do this quickly, can't they?"

"What are you talking about," they answered, "such petty matters are not even worth including in our current price list."

Meanwhile, the hour had struck, which, according to the board-like schedule, promised the desired appointment at the "Sibir'" House of Everyday Services.

"In principle, we do make repairs," said Nina Konstantinovna Grebennikova. "Only not soon. This involves a patch, and that means manual work. Two weeks."

"Stitching up a seam five centimeters long?" I said in amazement.

"It's a patch," the master craftsman shrugged. "We don't take short-term orders for manual operations. Well, O.K.: one week, but that's the best I can do."

Some time later, not far from the Philharmonia, I was quite surprised to come upon a sign which announced that located here was Shop No 3 for stitching and repairing men's outer wear.

"What would you like?" I heard a pleasant voice say, scarcely had I crossed the threshold.

"Could you possibly carry out a short-term order...? I began provocatively telling them about the nail.

"We could."

I explained in greater detail: this was a patch, manual work, and I needed it in a very short time, right away. And again I heard "We could!"

Here is where my friend should have gone! But how is somebody to know where to go? I returned home and sat down at the telephone book. The first thing I did was to telephone the production division of the oblast everyday services administration and inquire as to where I could have a pair of pants mended quickly.

"At any clothing-repair shop," Engineer R. Mulikayeva replied right away, but, after thinking for an instant, she began to make corrections. "To be more precise, at those where they mend men's clothing. To be even more precise, some of them have been granted special permission to perform short-term orders for an increased fee."

And I began telephoning all the clothing-repair shops in sequence in order to ascertain these "some." And it turned out that, besides Shop No 3, which I had come upon by chance, the only one which could have helped my friend was the "Komet." The others did not concern themselves with such "petty matters."

We sympathized greatly with the people of Tyumen. With such an abundance of clothing-repair shops, hardly any of them would patch up a hole in a pair of pants! And then we telephoned Krasnoyarsk. "Your assignment has arrived at a very opportune time: my pants have indeed become torn, and I am going out to have them repaired," we were answered by the IZVESTIYA correspondent for the KRASNOYARSK KRAY, Aleksandr SHCHERBAKOV. "And then I will tell you how matters turned out...." And within two days the teletype brought us his answer.

"The city has 54 sewing shops. Half of them render services also with regard to repairing clothing," I was told at the municipal administration for everyday public services. "There are also shops with extended business hours, for example, 'Obnovka' on the Left Bank, 'Ruslan' and 'Effekt' on the Right Bank section of the city; they operate even on days off. All the shops are concentrated in such a way as to bring the services close to the customer."

In general, this is a gratifying picture. In any case, in theory. But, as the British say, the proof of the pudding is in the eating.

And so I dropped in at the nearest clothing-repair shop--the "Obnovka"--and inquired as to whether they could mend a pair of pants. They advised me to come back in three days, when the cutter would be back from his vacation. I went further on: perhaps, somewhere they would be able to do it more quickly.

At the "Ekspress" orders were being received by the cutter herself, Zinaida Alekseyevna Grashinskaya. She received my request graciously, registered me in the "shop book," and handed me an appointment card stating: "Come back in two weeks." Moreover, it seemed that I was lucky. I understood this when I found out that the customer Ye. Shurygina, who had been standing ahead of me in line, had been instructed to show up in a month and a half. Her order was to move the buttons and cut new buttonholes on a coat.

And so the "pudding" of the Krasnoyarsk service proved to be, albeit good-looking, not at all tasty. In principle, it is possible to have small repairs done: to sew up some pants, to fit a jacket better, to whip-stitch a buttonhole, and even to sew on a button. It's just that you must have reserves of patience.

Upon returning from my joyless trip around the shops, I dropped in on the Krasnoyarsk TsUM [Central Department Store]. While there I looked at a suit; I tried it on--everything seemed fine, except that the waist was a bit too large. I was all the more annoyed, since I already knew how much effort it takes to have any alterations made to pants. Scarcely had I emerged from the trying-on room, however, when I was met by a saleswoman with a smile:

"A splendid suit, isn't it? If some little thing is not quite right, we have a master tailor who will alter it to fit you."

And when, on the following day, they really did hand over to me the precisely fitted suit and, moreover, did not even charge me a kopeck for the alterations, I really almost wept for joy. That's the way things should be!

This is, indeed, a strange story: stores, for which sewing and fitting clothing are, so to speak, ancillary matters, for the sake of good will render those very services which are the direct responsibilities of the clothing-repair shops. We are grateful, of course, to the trade establishments, but what about those who are supposed to concern themselves with our "everyday life"?

In order to answer this question, the IZVESTIYA correspondent in KAZAN, Al'yans SABIROV, made the following sacrifice: he courageously cut off a couple of buttons from his jacket and then headed for a clothing-repair shop.

The name of this shop is "Ulybka" [Smile]. It is under the jurisdiction of the "Tatshveybyt" Production Association and is located right in the center of Kazan, on Lenin Street.

"I have been working here for 35 years, and this is the first time I have received such an order," said the master craftsman, M. Karimullina, with a smile (i.e., fully in accord with the name of this shop). "But, never mind, give us your jacket, and we'll fix that button fast, right on the spot. How much will

it cost, you ask? Oh, come on now, maybe a few kopecks. It's really not what one would call a service but simply a small favor on our part."

At Clothing-Repair Shop No 25 they also sewed on my button in a jiffy, and without taking a single kopeck from me. And then I went to the dry cleaners. At the reception center on Pavlyukhin Street an announcement on the wall accurately proclaimed the following: "Minor clothing repairs done here."

"Yes, yes," affirmed the receptionist L. Khayrullina. "We help people. What happened to you? Ah, a button got torn off. We'll fix that in a jiffy."

"And how much will I owe you?"

"What are you talking about?--No charge...."

And so, a routine favor done gratis, though, of course, generously reimbursed with words of gratitude.

Still, I became quite interested as to whether or not it was really true that such services as sewing on a button, a hook with a loop, a hanger, thread, and I could probably come up with a dozen other such things, cost nothing at all?

At Clothing-Repair Shop No 5 of the "Zima" Association, after the button had again been returned to its customary place on my jacket, I was persistent in asking them to explain the cost of this operation.

"In my opinion, such a thing is not worth putting on our current price list," thoughtfully answered the cutter, T. Iglina. "What expenditures are there, really, in sewing on a button?"

I was already prepared to surrender: indeed, it seemed as though I had chanced upon some good people. And then, at Clothing-Repair Shop No 20 on Sverdlov Street the receptionist, O. Blokhina, wrote out a sales-slip for an "experimental" button.

It turns out that there is a current price list, one which we had been seeking and which had never really been lost at all. It is still quite new, having been put into effect only in July of this year. It lists in detail the types of work, including those for small services, as well as the prices to be charged for them. From this it is clear that for sewing on a button the average price ranges from 5 to 10 kopecks.

The trip taken by our correspondent in Kazan, as we have seen, was pleasant--he was met everywhere by affable, kind people, who helped him without thinking whether or not this was advantageous for the plan, and even, as it was explained, without knowing how much such a service costs and whether it was worth including on the list of mandatory services for the clothing-repair shops. Nevertheless, this last circumstance--the lack of the new list of services in most of the clothing-repair shops gives cause for concern. Because for people who are not so conscientious not knowing what their duties are is conducive to their not being obliged to perform these services: if they are in a good mood, they will accept the order; if not, then they won't. Let's repeat: this applies to people who are not conscientious. But for those who work in the service sphere according

to their consciences and not merely according to instructions it is always easier to help a person than to find an excuse to refuse him.

"But what about those who do their work well and are always prepared to help and are, nevertheless, compelled to refuse a service?" This question was included in our "raid" by the correspondent from BAKU, Shamil' MEDZHIDOV.

"But could there really be such a situation?" we were doubtful. However, upon reading his report, we were convinced: such things do occur.

"My jacket is somewhat ripped in the shoulder...."

"We'll repair it, but you'll have to wait half an hour."

"By the way, couldn't you press my pants at the same time?"

"Yes, they'll be ready in five minutes."

"And where shall I wait?"

"You can wait in the trying-on room, if there is nobody there. You will have to excuse us, but we have only one trying-on room...."

I had such a conversation with the chief of the Sewing and Repair Shop No 28, Ashot Mansaryan. To tell the truth, in this case the words "repair shop" are not very suitable. To be sure, there can be no doubts about the skills, kindness, and responsiveness of those who work here. During the half hour that I had to spend among them I became fully convinced that the people here are skillful, knowledgeable, and mean well. But the conditions under which they work....

A half-dark little room, crammed with antediluvian sewing machines and tables for cutting and ironing. Hanging on the wall, together with certificates of honor and laudatory diplomas, are ready-made suits and trousers. It is simply amazing how five master craftsmen manage to serve customers quickly and efficiently in such a crowded place. And many people come here; it is in the center of the city--a lively place. However, they could serve even more people if there were some place to wait while the short-term orders were being performed. While they were pressing my pants, I sat in the trying-on room. When I came out, there was a whole line of people on the other side of the curtains.

Moreover, in every clothing-repair shop of Baku there has to be one or two tailors engaged in small, short-term repairs. And everywhere I dropped in the picture was the same: there are master craftsmen, ready to perform any type of repair in a few minutes, but even for these few minutes there is no place to wait --you really cannot sit right in the hall without pants or without a skirt....

"For us this is the problem of problems," acknowledged the chief of administration of Baku's everyday services, Farrukh Zeynalov. "Of the 320 sewing and clothing-repair shops, only one-fourth are situated in rooms specifically designed for this purpose. But most of them 'roost' in various ancillary or private areas or semi-basement rooms, so that it is impossible to talk about comfort while waiting for a short-term order to be performed."

And there is one more circumstance which exacerbates this problem. Sometimes we may live a few steps away from a clothing-repair shop, but in order to patch a sleeve, we go into the center of town simply because we do not know what types of services can be obtained in our own district. And so it turns out that some shops are over-crowded, whereas in others the master-craftsmen are sitting without work. It would be quite appropriate at busy places--near metro stations, markets, movie theaters, and at bus stops--to set up modest-sized information boards which would tell us everything necessary about the work of nearby facilities providing everyday services.

Indeed, it must be difficult for the Baku everyday services. But pay attention to the following point: these difficulties have not become for the shop employees a justification for inactivity, for a lack of desire to carry out the requests of the customers. This, unfortunately, as our "raids" have shown, is still not a rarity in the service field particularly when it is a matter of small-scale services.

Furthermore, it has been calculated that a third of the time which we devote to housekeeping is spent on such seemingly unremarkable, petty matters as washing, cleaning up the apartment, and, of course, taking care of the clothing, i.e., that very same patching, cleaning, and ironing that we have been discussing. All the more necessary for us is such help as would save our time rather than waste it as soon as we have decided to turn to it.

Nevertheless, why are small-scale services, in this case clothing repair, so unpopular among the shop employees? Why is it that we often hear refusals? We posed this question at the Main Administration for Sewing and Clothing Repair of the RSFSR Ministry of Consumer Services.

"There should be no refusals," we were told by the deputy chief of administration, L. Meshcheryakova. "All the clothing-repair shops are obliged to accept clothing for repairs. I emphasize: all! The sole exceptions are shops in the highest category. Nevertheless, it does sometimes happen that customers are refused this service. We know about this. When the signals come in, we punish those service employees. But, to tell the truth, not everything depends on them. In the first place, skilled personnel are not everywhere. This is our misfortune. Because, you know, repairing clothing is not a simple matter. For example, a patch, especially when artistically made, is labor-consuming, manual work. It must be loved and it must be learned. But our schools which train tailors, cutters, and embroiderers, only acquaint them with the fundamentals of repairing clothing and do not teach them the practical skills. This is why we are waiting for improvements to be made in the school program.

"The second reason clothing workers are unwilling to take on such orders is the low current price-list cost of the individual operations. Therefore, prices must be brought into line with the outlays of working time for these services, also taking into account their importance.

"And, finally, our third complicating factor is the one about which the Baku correspondent has written--rooms.

"The fact of the matter is that everyday-service enterprises have two masters. On the one hand, the Ministry of Consumer Services, and, on the other--the local

Soviets. Our task is to furnish the shops with the necessary equipment and provide them with personnel. But the rooms are allocated basically by the local Soviets. In places where they understand the importance of consumer services in their entirety things go well. But in places where the local Soviets only look to see how we are handling the difficulties but they themselves are in no hurry to help out, in the final analysis, the losers are all those who turn to us for services.

* * *

And so it is clear to everyone: any service should be made available to people without any obstacles. And we agree with the Main Administration for Sewing and Clothing Repair that the problems--and, as we have seen, there are really not too many of them--must be solved in concert with everybody on whom this depends: the State Committee on Prices, the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education, and the Ministry of Consumer Services.

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CONSUMER SECTOR POLICY AND ECONOMICS

UKRAINIAN MEAT, DAIRY MINISTER ON ACHIEVED GOALS

Moscow MYASNAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian No 10, Oct 84 pp 9-11

[Article by V. K. Solomakha, minister of the Ukrainian SSR Meat and Dairy Industry, in the section "Economics and Production Organization": "The Party Assignment Is Being Carried Out"]

[Text] The collectives of blue collar, engineering and technical and white collar workers of Ukrainian SSR meat industry enterprises perceived as their personal affair the task assigned by the December (1983) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee calling for an above-plan increase by one percent in labor productivity and a half of one percent reduction in the production cost of products to be marketed in 1984. This party assignment was discussed at meetings of industry workers and included as the most important point in the socialist obligations for 1984. Therefore, since the first working days in the new year, the republic's Minmyasomolprom [Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry] has directed the activity of meat industry and meat-packing combine association managers toward broad development of the initiative of all workers in finding internal resources, and toward maximal strengthening of the economizing policy at all stages of production. For the provision of practical assistance during the first quarter of the current year, responsible officials and specialists of the Ukrainian SSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry were sent to all associations. In March 1984 there was held a conference of economic planning division chiefs and chief accountants of the republic's meat industry associations, at which progress in fulfilling the plans and socialist obligations for reducing the production cost of products to be marketed was examined.

Office mechanization and automation and economic engineering measures, aimed at unconditional fulfillment of the accepted socialist obligations, were developed in the associations and at the plants. Primary attention in these measures was paid to increasing labor productivity and lowering the production cost of products by introducing accomplishments of science and technology into production; by more complete use of production potential and an increase in the shifts of equipment operation; by strengthening technological and production discipline; by economizing in raw materials, fuel and power and financial resources; by improving the use of labor resources, primarily through developing and improving the brigade form of organization and providing incentives for labor, and, on this basis, reducing the salary expenditure per unit of production.

Development of these measures actually gave beginning to the work on reducing, in the current year, the production cost of products being turned out. The next stage was extensive enlistment of all the industry's workers to bring the plans and socialist obligations to fruition. And, although an efficient pace has not yet been set everywhere, it may be said with complete confidence that the Ukraine's meat industry plant collectives have taken considerable pains in the first half of the current year, and have laid a solid foundation for fulfilling the obligations accepted for the year.

The plan for eight months of 1984 in the republic's meat industry was significantly overfulfilled in production of the basic kinds of products, in overall production volume, in the sale of products and in labor productivity. The rates of production growth achieved in the first half year considerably exceed the rates approved by the plan for the year (See the table).

INDICATOR	ABOVE-PLAN PRODUCTION	PLAN FULFILLMENT	PERCENTAGE RELATIVE TO EIGHT MONTHS OF 1983
PRODUCTION			
Meat, thousands of tons	69.6	105.7	108.0
Sausage items, thousands of tons	11.9	102.9	101.7
Canned meat, mub [millions of uni- versal cans]	2.1	103.1	108.0
Prepared meats, thousands of tons	6.7	104.6	103.6
Packed meat, thousands of tons	2.7	108.2	114.4
Dry animal feeds, thousands of tons	6.3	107.7	108.0
PRODUCTS TO BE MARKETED, millions of rubles	181.8	105.6	106.4
VOLUME OF SALES, millions of rubles	182.4	105.8	106.1
LABOR PRODUCTIVITY, percentage	—	104.6	105.6

In the first half of 1984, the assignment calling for increasing meat and meat product resources and economizing in fuel, steam and electrical energy has been carried out as well, and a growth of labor productivity has been ensured that is surpassing by comparison with growth of the average salary; the socialist obligations calling for above-plan reduction by 1.04 percent in the production cost of products to be marketed have been fulfilled, and 38.5 million rubles in above-plan profits have been received.

If one is to speak of the factors by which such high economic indices were achieved, then it is necessary to speak first of all about the great amount of work carried out in the industry for raising the technical level of plants, mechanizing and automating production, introducing progressive technology and efficiently using raw materials.

The Ukraine's Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry collaborates with eight scientific research branch, academy and educational institutes on economic contracts providing for the creation of little-waste and no-waste technology and the mechanization of manual labor. In 1984, 62 scientific developments were projected for introduction. During the first half of 1984, 48 developments were introduced into production. At six meat-packing combines of the republic there is being introduced successfully a technology of blood clarification and the manufacture, on its basis, of a dry albuminous mixture and a paste, the application of which technology permits substantially increasing meat resources. Significant work in this direction has been done at the Yevpatoriya meat-packing combine. Workers of the combine, on their own initiative during short time periods, organized a section for clarifying blood and producing the dry albuminous mixture on existing floor space. An SGK-500 unit [not further identified], developed by the Kiev Polytechnical Institute collective, is used for drying the clarified blood.

The volume of use for food purposes of cattle and hog blood, and also category 2 by-products, is increasing annually. In the first half of 1984, 13,400 tons of cattle and hog blood, and 63,700 tons of category 2 by-products were directed into the manufacture of food products. The good results of this work by the Vinnitsa, Zhitomir, Ivano-Frankovo, Lvov, Poltava and Chernigov meat industry associations should be noted.

There have been introduced, at meat-packing combines of the republic, 10 presses for separating meat remnants from bone, on which 700 tons of meat mass were manufactured in the first half of 1984. The Zhdanov, Krivoy Rog and Kherson meat-packing combines achieved the best results in using the presses.

In the first half of 1984, 11 mechanized conveyer lines were introduced in the industry, and 7 production sections were complexly mechanized. In all, 206 persons were shifted from manual to mechanized labor by technical progress measures, and the overall freeing of worker strength amounted to 359 persons (116 percent of plan). Due to this factor, production cost of products to be marketed was reduced by 4.6 million rubles.

A major reserve of production cost reduction is improving the use of production capacities, which permits lowering the amortization deductions per unit of manufacturing production. In the industry during January-June 1984, an increase in the shift system of work was provided to capacity for manufacturing meat, canned meats and prepared meats. Increasing the number of workshifts of meat and lard shops by more than 10 percent was achieved thanks to a strengthening of ties with kolkhozes, sovkhoses and other partners in the APK [Agricultural and industrial complex] and significant growth of centralized livestock removal, which ensured the regularity of livestock arrival and processing.

In 1984 the ministry, jointly with the oblispolkoms, did the organizational work for drawing up yearly, monthly, daily and hourly schedules for the turn-in and receipt of livestock. An initiative of the Ivano-Frankovsk Oblast meat industry enterprises, which, jointly with the kolkhozes and sovkhozes, accepted socialist obligations for increasing the purchase of livestock and its removal by industry transport, was approved and recommended for implementation by the ministry, acting jointly with the Ukrainian Republic Trade Union Committee. The collectives of the Rovenskiy, Ternopol, Lvov, Chernigov, Dnepropetrovsk, Nikolayev and other meat industry associations of the republic supported this valuable initiative. In result, the volume of centralized livestock removal was increased by 20 percent in the first half of 1984.

Due to extremely heavy loading of refrigerators at a majority of the industry's plants, measures were adopted for increasing the sale of meat in refrigerated form and introducing progressive methods for the refrigeration treatment of meat and meat products. Through increasing the freezing of meat with the single-phase system by 24 percent in the first half of 1984, as compared with the corresponding period last year, and increasing the sale of meat in refrigerated form by 13 percent, an economic effect in the amount of 1 million rubles was obtained.

Significant economy was obtained during this period in result of improving the use of category 2 beef, increasing the manufacture of poultry meat in the cleaned form and using blood, meat mass, dry albuminous mixture, etc. in sausage and culinary production.

Purposeful work is being done at industry plants on increasing the effectiveness of fuel consumption and using secondary energy resources. Specifically, replacement of steam boilers of obsolete construction is in process, boiler units are being equipped with a KIP [not further identified] and an automated combustion mechanism, and other measures are being implemented. All of this has contributed to overfulfilling the established quota for fuel, heat and electrical energy economy and an additional reduction in production cost of marketed products by 1.5 million rubles.

Further expansion and improvement of the brigade form of organization and the provision of incentives for labor have great significance in fulfilling the accepted socialist obligations. At the present time, over 3,500 brigades, which comprise 80.9 percent of all workers, are working in the republic's meat industry. In the brigades, 64.4 percent of the workers are employed under a common job description with pay for end results, and 325 brigades work with application of cost-accounting principles. With the introduction of cost-accounting, experience of the pilot plant--the Donetsk Meat-Packing Combine, at which over 80 percent of the brigades work on the cost-accounting basis--is widely used.

The work experience of many meat industry association and plant collectives, and above all that of those which have achieved the best results, deserves attention. To these belong the composite cost-accounting brigades of the

Donetsk Meat-Packing Combine's hide-preserving section, headed by L. S. Ashkova; the Kharkov Meat-Packing Combine's meat boners and veiners, under the direction of N. N. Kulik; the Vatutino Meat-Packing Combine's technical products shop composite brigade, headed by L. I. Likhov; and others.

L. I. Likhov's brigade is the initiator of the republican socialist competition in increasing the manufacture of dry animal feeds per ton of meat, and it fulfilled the plan for four years of the five-year plan for animal feeds after three and a half years.

Practically all workers of the republic's meat industry plants' raw materials departments take an active part in the movement for increasing meat yields through higher quality boning, the initiators of which movement were a Rovenskiy Meat-Packing Combine boner, N. M. Savchuk, and the Kharkov Meat-Packing Combine boners. In result, 1,090 tons of meat resources were obtained for the republic as a whole in the first half of 1984.

Purposeful, systematic work is being done in the industry for increasing the qualifications of blue and white collar workers. In the first half year alone, 2,100 blue collar workers were taught new trades in a PTU [vocational and technical institute] and directly in the plants; and the qualifications of 2,200 blue collar workers, ITR [engineering and technical workers] and white collar workers were increased. The majority of the industry's workers is engaged in the economic education system.

Developing the brigade form of organization and providing incentives for labor, increasing the qualifications of workers and strengthening labor and production discipline ensured the surpassing growth of labor productivity over growth of the average salary and reduced the salary expenditure per unit of production. Because of this, the production cost of products to be marketed was reduced by an additional 1.6 million rubles.

Quite a lot has been done in the republic's meat industry for fulfilling plans and the socialist obligations accepted for 1984. However, one may not rest on one's achievements. The work on above-plan reduction in the production cost of products must become the business of every labor collective.

Guided by comrade K. U. Chernenko's instructions, we are trying to assure that, in every labor collective, the economizing policy is considered as a state matter, as a method of socialist management, and this includes the aggregate of economic, office mechanization and automation and educational measures, which have the precise objective of achieving good end results.

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12319

CSO: 1827/58

CONSUMER SECTOR POLICY AND ECONOMICS

LISSR LOCAL INDUSTRY MINISTER ON ECONOMIC EXPERIMENT RESULTS

Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 52, Dec 84 p 6

[Article by G. Simenenko, minister of local industry of the LiSSR: "The Indicator Requires More Precision"]

[Text] After joining the economic experiment at the beginning of this year, the enterprises of our ministry achieved rather good results. In 10 months compared with the corresponding period of last year, sales of consumer goods increased by 4.7 percent and labor productivity by 5.4 percent. Contract obligations were fulfilled 100 percent. In short, the labor collectives began to work more efficiently under the new management conditions.

It seems, however, that the results could be better. The fact is that under the conditions of the experiment, the imperfection of the practice that has developed for the planning of the production of consumer goods has become particularly obvious. Today this practice not only influences the initiative of the enterprises of local industry but also impinges upon the interests of the purchasers of our output.

At one time, when a shortage of many products was observed in the trade network, the republic's Gosplan, in confirming to the ministry the products list for consumer goods, used a special line to establish the production of goods for cultural-domestic and household purposes. In this connection, the division of products into cultural and domestic goods and other goods was purely conditional in nature. For example, the household bags with a plastic handle produced by the Danga Sewn Goods and Haberdasheries Factory in Kaunas are included among cultural and domestic items. But the identical bags, only with a cloth handle, are not included in this group of goods.

One could present quite a few more similar examples from among the 4,500 descriptions of items produced by the enterprises of the ministry. Thus, the indicator for the issue of cultural and domestic goods produces considerable confusion in the plans of the enterprises for their products lists.

In recent years, when there was a noticeable easing of the shortages in the trade network, the indicator for the issuance of cultural and domestic goods became objectively less significant. The republic's Gosplan, however, continues to establish by directive the ministry's targets for this indicator, whereby the plans traditionally provide for the output of cultural-domestic

and household goods to outdo the overall production of consumer goods. Thus, for this year compared with last year, the ministry has been assigned growth rates of 4.3 percent for its entire output and 5.1 percent for cultural and domestic goods.

In putting together requisitions, the trade organizations do not divide our products into different categories but are oriented exclusively to the needs of purchasers. In forming production plans, we, in turn, first of all select from these requisitions orders for goods that are cultural and domestic goods, according to the instructions in effect. And frequently, in seeking to fulfill precisely this line of the plan, we are forced to issue products that are not in demand at all.

I will illustrate this with an example. This year, trade declined to accept 130,000 out of the 295,000 rakes planned for us by the republic's Gosplan. The overstocking amounted to about R100,000. This is explained by the fact that previously a significantly portion of the rakes was sold beyond the boundaries of the republic. But now that their production has been worked out in many oblasts, the demand has fallen sharply. For the coming year, however, Gosplan has assigned us control figures at this year's level.

Similar and by no means isolated cases needlessly complicate our interrelationships with trade.

We consider that under the conditions of the economic experiment, which provides for a significant extension of the rights of enterprises in the formation of plans, the indicator for the issuance of cultural-domestic and household goods should be excluded and one indicator--"the volume of the production of consumer goods"--should be applied in the planning practice.

The work of the ministry under the new conditions, when the main task is now the unconditional fulfillment of contractual obligations, has shown that still another element of management is in need of very rapid improvement. Involved is the discrepancy in the dates for the holding of trade fairs for the purchase of materials and the trade fairs for the signing of contracts for the sale of finished output, which is quite harmful to the interests of our enterprises. Thus, for example, we buy fabric in June, but not until September do we receive orders from trade for sewn goods. The situation is similar in the relationship of other materials.

According to the existing order, the ministry presents to the republic's Gosplan and Gosstab in April of the current year a consolidated requisition of the enterprises for material resources for the plan of the coming year, relying on the experience of previous years. After the holding of All-Union wholesale trade fairs for the purchase of products, however, it sometimes turns out that our forecasts regarding consumer demand were incorrect.

And a specific example confirms this. This year the ministry ordered 1,370 tons of down and feather materials in accordance with the level of last year. The republic's Ministry of Trade later declined a large portion of the items made from these materials, citing a lack of demand. The result was a surplus of raw material amounting to 575 tons.

At this year's wholesale trade fairs as well, we were not able to sell goods valued at more than R5.3 million to the account of next year's production plan. The accumulation of materials in the warehouses amounted to R4.7 million.

The changes that inevitably arise after the trade fairs in the product-list plans for production greatly complicate the work of the enterprises in meeting contractual deliveries. Thus, the Myarkis Down and Feather Products Factory in Varena, not having received enough orders in 1984 for the issue of its basic output, had to flexibly change its assortment through the manufacture of sewn goods. But because the textiles essential for fulfilling the orders were very late in arriving, the issue of the sewn goods was not begun until the second half of the year, which had a less than favorable impact on the observance of contractual obligations.

Proceeding from what has been said, we believe that it is expedient to hold the All-Union wholesale trade fairs in May. This will correspond in the best manner to the interests of the enterprises that have joined the large-scale economic experiment.

9746
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CONSUMER SECTOR POLICY AND ECONOMICS

MORE MEAT BY-PRODUCTS, BETTER INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT URGED

Moscow MYASNAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian No 10, Oct 84 pp 1-6

[Article by Yu. A. Krokha, deputy minister of the USSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry: "To Increase Meat Resources"]

[Text] In the realization of the Food Program, a large role is being assigned to measures for the further increase of the output of meat products. The realization of these measures is directly connected with the development of the meat industry, which constitutes an important link of the agro-industrial complex.

During the current year, in accordance with the decisions of the April (1984) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and the instructions of the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, comrade K. U. Chernenko, the collectives of the associations and enterprises of the meat industry have increased labor activeness, discipline and organization in work, which has been conducive to the growth of the volumes of production, plan fulfillment, and the increase in the output and quality of work. The meat industry exceeded the plan indicators for the 8 months of 1984 with respect to the production and sale of output. Above-plan production came to 288,000 tons of meat, including 20,000 tons of poultry, 90,000 tons of sausage products, 19,000 tons of cooking oils, 12,000 tons of convenience foods, 24 mub [standard cans, prob. thous. of tons] of canned meat, 1.7 canned meat and vegetables, and 20,000 tons of dry animal feed.

The rates of production and sale of most of the types of production attained during January to August 1984 exceed the rates envisaged by the annual plan. In the meat industry, work is constantly being done in regard to the perfection of technology, the improvement of the utilization of raw material, its integrated processing, the reduction of losses, and the involvement of additional sources of raw material in the output of food production. Thanks to this, during the first 6 months of 1984 alone meat resources were increased by 232,700 tons, and during the past years of the 11th Five-Year-Plan--by more than 1.5 million tons.

However, in spite of the, on the whole, positive results of the work of the industry during the current year, it is necessary to note that by far not full use is being made of the reserves for increasing production efficiency and the

increase in the output of meat products entailed by this. The industry has possibilities for the further increase in production efficiency, including through the perfection of the technology of raw material processing. One of the most important directions in this work is the more rational utilization of bone. According to data for 1983, 677,000 tons of bone were utilized in the industry for food purposes, or 76.9 percent of its total resources. This valuable raw material was basically directed into the production of meat-bone semimanufactures (25 percent), the rendering of bone oil for cooking (39.6 percent), and the sale in unprocessed form (13.4 percent).

These directions of the utilization of bone for food purposes do not guarantee its thorough processing. At the present time, abroad and in our country, new technological methods for the processing of bone are being introduced, which secure its more efficient utilization. Thus, as the result of compacting the meat-bone raw material on special equipment, the muscular part in addition is separated from the bone, which can be used in the production of meat products. After the appropriate processing, all food components are extracted from the bone residue.

The introduction of the new technology of separating the meat from the bone secures a significant economic effect. The use of presses for the separation of the meat from the bone makes it possible to obtain an economy of 28 rubles per 1 ton of bone as compared to the sale of soup assortments and ragout. Moreover, the enterprises obtain additional raw material resources for the production of dry animal feeds in the amount of 0.8 tons per 1 ton of pressed bone.

Also efficient is the utilization of presses for the complete meat separation from the carcasses of non-standard poultry. The use of the press fully mechanizes the process of separating the meat from the bone and makes it possible to utilize the meat mass obtained for the production of profitable sausage products.

All of this testifies to the expediency of the wide-scale introduction, in the meat industry, of the technology of the separation of meat from bone through the method of pressing. The ministry is setting the task of equipping, within the next few years, all those enterprises of the meat industry where this is economically expedient, with presses for the mechanical separation of meat from bone and for non-standard carcasses of poultry and sheep. Calculations show that the expenditures for the acquisition, installation and introduction of the presses can be recovered in the course of a year if they are operated at normal capacity.

For the supply of the enterprises of the meat industry with equipment, the quantity production of domestic presses of Type K25.046 for the separation of meat from bone has been organized by the Ministry of the Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry. However, the task with respect to the production of meat mass was fulfilled only to the extent of 94.5 percent during the first 6 months of 1984. The enterprises of the RSFSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry failed to cope with the fulfillment of this task. The basic reason for the systematic failure to fulfill the state plans for the production of meat mass is the unsatisfactory utilization of the existing capacities of the

presses in a number of enterprises. In addition, in some meat combines a long delay is being permitted in the introduction of the presses because of the lagging behind of installation and start-up and adjustment work.

An analysis of the presses in the first 6 months of 1984, as well as the results of the check of a number of enterprises, showed that in many of them the presses are being operated with a significant underload. Thus, in the enterprises of the RSFSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry 22 presses were operated during the expired period. If one takes into account only net working time, allowing for work stoppages for technical reasons, 3,500 tons of meat mass could be produced on these presses if they are loaded with raw materials. In actual fact only 2,400 tons were obtained. The plan was fulfilled only to the extent of 86.0 percent. It is characteristic that at such large meat combines as the Gor'kovskiy Combine (general manager of the association V. G. Kameshkov), the Kazanskiy Combine (general manager of the Tatarskoye Association Kh. A. Rakhmatulin), the Lipetskiy Combine (general manager of the association V. V. Bobilyev), the Permskiy Combine (general manager of the association A. I. Mikhlyayev), the Sverdlovskiy Combine (general manager of the association V. I. Nazarenko), the Engel'skiy Combine (general manager of the Saratovskoye Association V. F. Vlasova), and the Chelyabinskiy Combine (general manager of the association A. A. Kudryashov), which have adequate raw material resources for pressing, the utilization of the presses during this period turned out to be at the level of 14 to 57 percent. Thus, at the largest combine in the industry, the Leningrad Meat Combine (general manager of the association L. V. Antonov), the available presses have been utilized for a number of years at only 30 percent capacity. Things are somewhat better with the utilization of the presses at the Tikhoretskiy (manager A. I. Kramarenko) and the Moscow (manager Ye. M. Vasyurin) meat combines.

An analogous situation with the operation of the presses is observed at the enterprises of other republic ministries. Thus, at the Alma-Ata Canned Meat Combine (general manager A. M. Avdeyev), the utilization of the capacity of the press does not exceed 50 percent. The K25.046 Press placed into operation in October 1983 at the Petropavlovsk Canned Meat Combine is altogether idle. The directors of the KaSSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry, and in the first place the deputy ministries N. K. Kolot and Ye. A. Utegenov, as well as the chief of the Main Administration for the Meat Industry, S. Zh. Isenbayev, virtually take no practical measures to improve their work.

There are serious shortcomings in the utilization of the presses at the following meat combines: The Yevpatoriyskiy Combine (general manager of the Krymskoye Association V. I. Pavlenko), the Voroshilovgradskiy Combine (general manager D. V. Zaytsev), the Zhitomirskiy Combine (general manager of the association I. A. Podoprigora) of the UkSSR, the Slutskiy Combine (manager of the combine G. A. Borovik), and the Zhlobinskiy Combine (manager of the combine A. A. Starovoytov) of the BSSR.

An important factor, which determines to a significant degree the volumes of output of meat mass on the presses, is its utilization for the production of food production. At the present time, meat mass is permitted for use in the production of many types of boiled sausage. Permission also exists for the use of meat mass obtained during the meat separation of non-standard mutton.

Taking into account the fact that some enterprises do not have the possibility, in terms of their capacities and the assortment of products being turned out, of processing all of the meat mass being produced, the ministry approved common normative-technical specifications for the production and utilization of meat mass in the form of frozen blocks with a preservation term of 1-3 months. Thus, meat mass can be processed practically in all enterprises of the meat industry. It is natural that this requires the solution of a number of organizational and technical questions with respect to the freezing, preservation and transportation of meat mass to other enterprises, which do not have presses. As an example of the correct solution of the problems we make take the Stavropol'skoye Meat Industry Association, at the Pyatigorskiy and Stavropol'skiy meat combines of which organized the processing, on presses, of non-standard poultry obtained from subsidiary enterprises, the refrigeration processing of meat mass, and its dispatch in accordance with instructions from the RSFSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry to other meat-processing enterprises. Unfortunately, this is thus far an isolated example.

During the first 6 months of 1984, the meat mass being obtained was not fully used in sausage production in the Gor'kovskiy, Engel'skiy and other meat combines. At the Kazanskiy Meat Combine only 27 percent of the bone resources were sent to pressing, and 20 tons of meat mass were processed, with the possible volume being 50 tons. Such a situation also developed in some enterprises of the ministries of the meat and dairy industry of the UkSSR, the BSSR, the KaSSR, and the MSSR. At the same time, positive results have been obtained where the managers of enterprises approach the solution of the problems with respect to the operation of the presses and the utilization of meat mass in a responsible manner and with initiative. Apart from the mentioned enterprises of the Stavropol'skoye Meat Industry Association, the Minskiy and Cherkizovskiy meat processing plants, the Tallinn and Riga canned meat combines, the Kiev, Odessa, Zhdanov, Kharkov, Alitus, Tbilisi, Krasnodarsk meat combines, and a number of other enterprises can serve as an example of this.

The efficient operation of presses depends to a large extent on where they are installed, whether the necessary temperature-humidity and sanitation-hygiene conditions are secured, and whether there exists the possibility of rapid cooling or freezing of the meat mass if it is not immediately utilized. Checks have shown that at a number of enterprises these conditions are not fully secured, which, of course, creates additional difficulties for the processing of the meat mass and its utilization. It is necessary to note also that the ministries of the meat and dairy industry of the union republics have not shown the requisite insistence and initiative in the work with respect to the creation of new types of meat products, which permit the maximum use of the meat mass. The All-Union Scientific Research Institute of the Meat Industry also has not occupied a leading role in the development of the indicated products. It is well known that abroad meat mass is widely used for the production of liver sausages and pâtés. However, the task of developing new types of such products given to the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of the Meat Industry in 1983 has not been fulfilled up to now. Also required is more thorough development of the technology of the introduction of meat mass in the production of boiled sausages.

It is necessary to bring to light and broadly disseminate the initiative and progressive experience of the enterprises of the industry in order to eliminate difficulties as quickly as possible that hold back the introduction of the presses and their more efficient utilization.

A serious shortcoming in the work of a number of enterprises that have presses is the excessively long execution of installation work during their setting up--which in the final analysis delays their being put into production. The 3-month term established by the USSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry for the introduction of presses from the day of their arrival at the enterprise is frequently not sustained. Thus, installation work went on longer than this term at the Ulan-Udenskiy and Tyumenskiy meat combines of the RSFSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry. The ministries of the meat and dairy industry of the Ukraine, Kirgizia, and Moldavia are planning to complete the installation of presses at the Lisichanskiy Meat Processing Plant, the Nikopol'skiy, Oshskiy and Dondyushanskiy meat combines, dispatched by the manufacturing plant in February-March 1984, by the end of this year. With respect to the installation of presses, things are especially bad at the Bakinskiy and Valgskiy meat combines. The AzSSR and ESSR ministries of the meat and dairy industry are unable to decide the question of their installation in the course of a year. The terms of the completion of the installation of the presses obtained in March of this year by the Pavlodarskiy and Kustanayskiy meat combines of the KaSSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry have not been determined.

These facts obviously testify to the fact that many managers of enterprises and production associations do not display the requisite responsibility and initiative, and a number of union republic ministries do not exercise effective control in the solution of the problems in regard to the acceleration of the introduction of presses for the separation of meat from the bone, their fuller utilization in terms of capacity and utilization of meat mass.

The USSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry has been set the task of a yearly increase in meat resources through the equipment of the meat combines with mechanical presses for the additional separation of meat from bone.

On 1 August 1984, 81 presses had been manufactured by the Odessa Pressmash Production Association and supplied to enterprises of the industry, and of these, 58 had been put into production. At the present time, 76 presses are in operation in the industry.

Given continuous operation of the presses, their more complete load, and taking into account the structure of the raw material being processed that has taken shape in the industry, the possibility exists to increase, by comparison with the first 6 months of the current year, the output of meat mass and to secure the fulfillment of the annual task. One of the main conditions of this is the securing of the more stable operation of the presses being supplied by the Odessa Pressmash Association. The practice of the operation of these presses during the last two years indicates their insufficient reliability. The inspection of a number of enterprises having these presses, with the participation of specialists of the Odessa Pressmash Association, confirms this conclusion.

The weakest link of these presses is the hydraulic system, and in particular the high-pressure pump and the stuffing box seal. Components of the compacting assembly (casing, ring) and systems of automation frequently fail. To eliminate these shortcomings, the Ministry of the Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry has approved a plan of measures for increasing the quality, reliability and technical servicing of the presses. In conformity with the plan, the Odessa Pressmash Association has organized the output of presses of improved quality beginning with the 4th quarter of 1983. According to data for 1 August 1984, only 14 of 37 such presses were put into operation. According to available information, these presses are operating reliably at the Tiraspol'skiy, Cherkasskiy, and L'vovskiy meat combines. Naturally, a certain amount of time is required to give an objective assessment of this press design.

The All-Union Scientific Research Institute of the Meat Industry has been charged to conduct, jointly with the Odessa Pressmash Association, the development of the technical conditions for the compacting of bone. The Pressmash Association has organized three groups for the technical maintenance of its presses in the enterprises of the ministries of the meat and dairy industry of the RSFSR, the BSSR, and the KaSSR. However, thus far the effectiveness of their work is low. Facilities are lacking in the zones of maintenance of the presses, where a certain supply of necessary spare parts could be created and where a section for their repair could be set up. The presence of such stations in the press maintenance zones will significantly increase the time for the elimination of malfunctions in the operation of the presses, as well as out-of-town travel expenditures. The ministries of the meat and dairy industry of the RSFSR, the BSSR, and the KaSSR must provide assistance to the Pressmash Association in the allotment of facilities for these groups.

At the same time, it must be noted that the Ministry of the Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry has not fully fulfilled the measures for increasing the reliability of the presses and the improvement of their technical maintenance. In particular, the question of allotting funds to the enterprises for the delivery of spare parts has not been solved. The allotment of spare parts after the breakdown of presses according to the existing practice requires a long time. The enterprises of the meat industry have a right to expect, from the Ministry of the Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry and the Odessa Pressmash Association, more effective measures for the solution of these problems.

In the year ahead, the delivery of presses to the industry will be increased. The USSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry has proposed the organization of the production of universal presses in the system of the Ministry of the Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry which make it possible, with the use of an appropriate accessory press instrument, to process bone, the carcasses of poultry, and non-standard mutton. The creation of the universal press is possible at the base of the assembly for the meat separation from poultry carcasses, an experimental model of which has been manufactured by the Odessa Pressmash Association.

The bone resources for enterprises of the meat industry come to about 900,000 tons per year, but they are not used in a rational manner. At the present

time, bone fat and meat mass, amounting to about 25 percent of its total composition, are being extracted for food purposes from all of its components. The most valuable part of the bone--protein--is being used primarily for the production of glue and feeds for animal husbandry. More than 300,000 tons of bone annually are directed into the production of food bone fat. The broths obtained in so doing are utilized in insignificant quantities for food purposes. Basically they are supplied to animal husbandry farms for feed purposes--in 1983 205,000 tons of broth were sent to agriculture.

The organization of the output of food broths is connected with great difficulties. Broths are an especially perishable product, they require the creation of special condition for their production, preservation and transportation. In particular, chilled or refrigerated means of transportation are required for the delivery of broths to the public catering network.

The most promising direction--the production of broth in dry form--significantly simplifies the conditions of their preservation, transportation and sale. In connection with this, the technology of the production of dry proteins (dry broths) from bone and the production of dry broth concentrates (dry broths with spices) on their basis with the addition of salt, sugar, fat, flavor additives and spices, developed by specialists of the Design and Technological Office of the ESSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry, merits special attention and wide-scale introduction in the industry.

Dry broths with spices are high-quality food products, they are intended for the retail trade and the system of public catering as the basis for the preparation of first and second courses.

The technology of the production of dry broths calls for the extraction of fragmented bone in autoclaves and the subsequent drying of the broths obtained in an Al-FBU dryer. The proposed technology does not require large expenditures for introduction. A section for the production of broths on the basis of serially produced domestic equipment has been created at the Vykhnaskiy Meat Combine of the ESSR.

The new technology for the production of dry broths from bone was examined and approved during the current year by the section of the meat industry of the Scientific and Technical Council and the collegium of the USSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry, and the Central Industry Expert Commission for the Assessment of the Quality of Meat Products. Taking into account the experience of the ESSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry, all-union normative-technical manufacturing instructions for the production of dry food broths from bone have been developed and approved. Also envisaged by the manufacturing instructions is the production of these broths from bone residue obtained after the mechanical separation of meat from bone on presses.

For the wide-scale introduction of the production technology for dry broths from bone in the industry on the basis of the experience of the ESSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry and for its further perfection with the aim of the comprehensive utilization of all components of bone for food purposes, the USSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry has issued the order "On

Measures for the Organization of the Production of Dry Broths in Enterprises of the Meat Industry", which envisages the creation of specialized plants and sections for the production of dry broths in enterprises of the meat industry that are being built, as well as in existing ones during their reconstruction and expansion. Tasks in regard to the production of dry food broths have been established for the ministries of the meat and dairy industry of the union republics for 1985-1990.

In every meat combine with a capacity of more than 5 tons of sausage products per shift, where the removal of bone in autoclaves is performed, it is necessary to install dryers and organize the production of dry broths.

However, the technology for the production of dry broths does not secure the complete and comprehensive utilization of all bone components for food purposes. On the basis of this technology, 25 kilograms of dry protein and 100 kilograms of food bone fat can be obtained from every ton of bone. The remaining components are sent for the production of feeds. In a number of foreign countries (England, Denmark) there exists experience in the utilization of the utilization of all bone components for food purposes. On the basis of the technology of the English firm Lansfield, 130 kilograms of dry protein, 110 kilograms of food fat, and 270 kilograms of food mineral products can be obtained from 1 ton of bone. These products from bone are used as components in the production of meat products, as well as for dietary and medical nutrition.

For the further increase in the efficiency of the use of bone, it has been proposed to the industry scientific research organizations that, on the basis of domestic and foreign experience, they develop the technology and the technical means for the production of food and mineral products from bone. The State Institute for the Planning of Meat Industry Establishments has been charged with developing and sending, to the ministries of the meat and dairy industry of the union republics, design solutions for plants for the production of dry broths with the aim of their repeated use in enterprises of industry, which must envisage the packing, on specialized equipment, of dry broth with spices weighing 5-10 grams each for the retail trade, and larger quantities for public catering.

To study the experience of the ESSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry with respect to the production of food broths in 1984 on the basis of the Vykhnaskiy Meat Combine, the organization of a permanently-operating school of advanced experience has been envisaged.

The task of the ministries of the union republics and associations of the meat industry is to study the Estonian experience and to disseminate it widely in subsidiary enterprises. What turned out as the result of the efforts of the ESSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry can be organized in the majority of meat combines.

In the industry there are large reserves for increasing meat resources and organizing the above-plan production of meat products. The daily and purposeful work with respect to the search for and utilization of additional meat resources will be conducive to the fulfillment of the Food Program.

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CONSUMER SECTOR POLICY AND ECONOMICS

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REPAIR SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS IN TEXTILE INDUSTRY IMPLEMENTED

Moscow TEKSTIL'NAYA PROMYSHLENNOST' in Russian No 10, Oct 84 pp 1-3

[Article by V. A. Zikeyev, deputy chief of Power and Machinebuilding Administration, USSR Ministry of Light Industry: "Improving the Repair Service Is an Important Reserve for Increasing the Operational Efficiency of the Entire Sector"; passages in all caps are printed in boldface for emphasis in the original Russian text/

[Text/ In carrying out the decisions of the 26th party congress and the ensuing plenums of the CPSU Central Committee, the light industrial enterprises during the 11th Five-Year Plan are providing the output of consumer goods without increasing the number of workers but merely by means of increasing labor productivity. This will be achieved as a result of replacing old equipment by up-to-date equipment as well as by increasing the operational reliability of the machines and machine-tools which have been installed at the enterprises.

Of particular urgency at the present-day stage of intensifying production is the QUESTION OF FURTHER IMPROVING REPAIRS ON THE PRODUCTION LINE. In connection with this, the service operations of the chief mechanic's division is being implemented along the following basic lines:

improving the technical servicing of the engineering equipment;

utilizing efficient methods for repairing machinery, machine tools, and apparatus;

organizing work with regard to modernizing equipment;

introducing the brigade form of organizing and providing labor incentives for workers employed in the technical servicing and repair of engineering equipment;

increasing the efficiency of using central repair workshops and repair plants in solving the problems of providing engineering supplies to the production line.

We can cite a number of progressive enterprises within the system of the USSR Ministry of Light Industry, such as the Chaykovskiy Silk-Fabric Combine imeni 50th Anniversary of the USSR, the Ivanovskiy Worsted Combine imeni V. I. Lenin, the Yakhroma Cotton Spinning-and-Weaving Mill, the Chernigov Worsted-Cloth Combine imeni 50th Anniversary of the Soviet Ukraine, the Rovno Linen Combine imeni Komsomol of the Ukraine, the Alma-Ata Cotton Combine imeni 50-letiya Oktyabr'skoy revolyutsii, the Dushanbe

Cotton Production Association, the Osh Cotton Production Association imeni 50-letiya Oktyabrya, and others. At these enterprises a great deal of work is being carried out with respect to increasing the operational reliability of the engineering equipment; a complex of measures is being introduced to ensure the engineering repairs of the production lines. As a result, the groups at these enterprises are constantly fulfilling the plans for the capital repairs of the engineering equipment with high technical-economic indicators for equipment productivity with minimal outlays, as well as carrying out their assignments with regard to the manufacture, restoration, and strengthening of spare parts, applying the most advanced methods of metalworking.

The search for better forms of technical servicing and repair of engineering equipment has led in a number of industrial sectors to the new, so-called NORMATIVE-PIECE-RATE WAGES FOR REPAIR PERSONNEL.

The essence of this system lies in the fact that integrated brigades are created in the repair workshops; and they carry out all types of technical servicing: cleaning, lubricating, inspection, technical servicing, medium and major repair of the engineering equipment in accordance with the established volumes and schedules. In connection with the position on the integrated brigade, wages in the brigades are generated for the entire complex of operations in accordance with the procedure based on the KTU.

At the Alma-Ata Cotton Combine imeni 50-letiya Oktyabr'skoy revolyutsii, the Chernigov Worsted-Cloth Combine imeni 50-letiya Sovetskoy Ukrainy this form of technical servicing and repair has stood the test of time and is yielding positive results.

In expanding the INTRODUCTION OF THE BRIGADE FORM OF ORGANIZING AND PROVIDING INCENTIVES for the labor of the repair personnel, the Power and Machine Building Administration of the USSR Ministry of Light Industry, together with Ministries of Light Industry of the Ukrainian SSR and the Kazakh SSR, at the Alma-Atinskiy Cotton Combine imeni 50th Anniversary of the October Revolution and the Chernigov Worsted-Cloth Combine imeni 50-letiya Sovetskoy Ukrainy, organized sectorial, permanently operating schools of advanced experience. During the second half of 1983 and the first half of 1984 they have provided instruction for 230 specialists in repairing the production line.

Now at the enterprises of all the industry's sectors more than 30 percent of the engineering equipment is being repaired according to a standardized technology. The network of section-type workshops for the centralized repair of engineering equipment is being expanded. Good results in this matter have been achieved by the Reutovskaya Cotton-Spinning Mill, the Moskovskaya Cotton Mill imeni M. V. Frunze, the Riga Woolen Production Association named "Rigas tekstilas," a number of other enterprises. By the end of the five-year plan it is planned to organize analogous centers at yet another 30 enterprises.

At the beginning of the 1980's work in our industry was being conducted with enterprises and organization of the CSSR on developing SET SERVICING OF ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT coming in from the CEMA member countries. At the present time such ties are also being established with the Polish People's Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic, and the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

The quality of repairing engineering equipment depends, in large measure, on the GUARANTEED SUPPLY OF SPARE PARTS, in which there is a growing shortage. Taking this into consideration, the chief mechanics of the enterprises concerned pay constant attention to developing their own capacities--central repair workshops and repair plants. They have set up the production of spare parts by their own efforts and are paying attention primarily to imported engineering equipment and that which has been taken off the production line.

The annual growth in the production of spare parts for this industry amounts to approximately 5 percent.

Large-scale projects are being conducted with regard to RESTORING AND STRENGTHENING MACHINE PARTS. At the advanced enterprises the use of the most up-to-date methods of restoration is becoming more and more widespread. We should note the experience of the Ternopol' Cotton Combine imeni 60-letiya Velikoy Oktyabr'skoy sotsialisticheskoy revolyutsii and the Krivoy Rog Worsted-Spinning Factory, which were the first in this sector to master the progressive method of restoring machine parts by the method of electro-slag casting in chill molds. Great successes in restoring and strengthening parts by the method of plasma processing of metal were achieved at the Yakhroma Cotton Mill.

In repairing production lines more and more use has been found for UNIVERSAL-ASSEMBLY DEVICES AND FORGING DIES (the Glukhovskiy Cotton Combine imeni V. I. Lenin, Rovno Linen Combine imeni Komsomol Ukrain, Alma-Ata Cotton Combine imeni 50-letiya Oktyabr'skoy revolyutsii, Dushanbe Cotton Combine, and others).

Taking into account the constantly growing demand for ECONOMIZING ON FUEL, ENERGY, AND MATERIAL RESOURCES, the enterprises which have casting production are mastering up-to-date, progressive technologies. There is a constantly ongoing process of replacing low-production cupola furnaces by induction furnaces for smelting iron, steel, and non-ferrous metals; there is an expansion in the products list of items being manufactured by smelted models and chill casting.

In recent years the repair services are feeling more and more the effective aid of our scientific organizations. A number of higher educational institutions, in conjunction with specialists of the enterprises, are solving a complex of problems with regard to the OPERATIONAL RELIABILITY OF ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT, as well as improving the repair of the production line. Considerable aid to the enterprises in the light industry system is being rendered by the Leningrad Institute of Textile and Light Industry imeni S. M. Kirov, where they have worked out an effective METHOD OF DIAGNOSING COUPLING FRICTION IN THE ASSEMBLIES OF TEXTILE MACHINERY, which will, undoubtedly, find widespread acceptance at enterprises of the textile sector. At the present time this method has won approval at the Rovenskiy Linen Combine imeni Komsomol of the Ukraine in connection with burnishing STB /shuttleless/ looms after they have been repaired on benches.

At the Kostromskiy Institute of Technology a great deal of attention is being paid to developing standardized technologies for the repair and setting up of organizational and the technical outfitting for the enterprises' industrial maintenance.

The Moscow Technological Institute of the Textile and Light Industries is conducting a great deal of work with regard to improving the repair of sewing and fulling-and-felting equipment.

Seriously engaged in disseminating the advanced experience of the repair services of enterprises and the achievements of science and technology is the Department of Repairs and Operations on Engineering Equipment of the All-Union Institute for Upgrading the Qualifications of Management Workers in the Textile and Light Industries of the USSR. The service specialists of the chief engineers of the enterprises, being sent to take courses for upgrading their qualifications, acquire a full complement of materials with regard to increasing the efficiency of repair production, as well as organizing ensured engineering supplies to the basic production line. The department is continuously accumulating materials concerning all the progressive initiatives being made in the enterprises' repair services, and this facilitates the improvement of the repair service in this sector.

Held in May of this year in the city of Rovno was an All-Union Scientific and Technical Conference on the Basic Directions for Improving Technical Servicing and Repairing Engineering Equipment within the System of the USSR Ministry of Light Industry. There many institutes reported on those problems which they are working on at the present time in conjunction with the enterprises' repair-service specialists. We should note the highly effective work being done by the TsSPKBlegprom /Central Soviet of the Planning and Design Bureau for Light Industry/ of the Ukrainian SSR Ministry of Light Industry, which, in cooperation with the republic's enterprises, is constantly introducing advanced methods for the manufacture, restoration, and strengthening of engineering equipment parts, as well as progressive types of repair and up-to-date methods of metalworking.

In 1984 the University of Technical Progress of the TsPNTD /Central Board of the Scientific and Technical Society for Light Industry/ of the USSR Ministry of Light Industry organized for the enterprises a cycle of lectures for the correspondence department, entitled "Increasing the Efficiency of the Technical Servicing and Repairing of Engineering Equipment." These lectures will assist the service managers of the enterprises' chief mechanics in finding solutions to the basic directions of the technical policy with regard to repairing the production lines at the present-day stage.

In accordance with the decree of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers, entitled "On Strengthening the Work of Economizing on and Rationally Utilizing Raw Materials, Fuel-and-Energy, and Other Material Resources," great responsibility has been placed on the services of the enterprises' chief mechanics for the rational expenditure, collection, and utilization of processed petroleum products.

One of the principal tasks confronting the industry is to make fuller use of secondary resources, and processed petroleum products comprise one of the components of the fuel-and-energy balance. Therefore, constant attention must be paid to this problem. And this also involves organizing the lubrication service of an enterprise in accordance with present-day requirements, as well as strengthening monitoring controls over the cleaning and lubrication of engineering equipment along with the rational selection and standardization of lubricating materials.

At the enterprises of this sector the services of the chief mechanics' divisions have the duty to intensify work ON MODERNIZING THE EXISTING ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT, and this can be done by their own efforts. The enterprises have a large detachment of efficiency experts and inventors. Their suggestions make it possible, with modest outlays of material resources, to obtain a significant effect--increasing the productivity of the equipment and the labor of the basic production workers. Large successes in this matter have been achieved by the Khersonskiy Cotton Combine imeni 26th CPSU Congress, enterprises of the Ivkhlopprom and Lenkhlopprom, the Krengol'mskaya manufaktura Combine, and a number of other enterprises. Their experience merits attentive study and broad dissemination.

The 11th Five-Year Plan is coming to an end, and it is important that the repair-service managers define for themselves the problems which they must solve during the 12th Five-Year Plan. First of all, they must direct their work at improving production-line repairs by means of developing repair centers, introducing the brigade form of organizing and providing incentives for the labor of repair personnel, improving the technical servicing and repair of the engineering equipment, based on the achievements of science and technology.

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FOOD PROCESSING AND DISTRIBUTION

NEED TO IMPROVE MILK HANDLING DISCUSSED

Reaction in Tashkent

Moscow TRUD in Russian 26 Oct 84 p 2

[Report by TRUD correspondent M. Shteynberg: "Concerning Sour Milk"; for additional information on this subject, see JPRS USSR REPORT: CONSUMER GOODS AND DOMESTIC TRADE, No JPRS-UCG-84-025, 13 Dec 84 pp 54-59]

[Text] "Last week I bought sour cream made in Fergana. It was much tastier and of better quality than our Tashkent sour cream! What is going on with dairy production in our city? It cannot stand up to any kind of criticism..." (Signed) G. Ibragimova, Tashkent.

A paradox: the purchaser praises products brought from hundreds of kilometers away—from Syr-Darya, Kokand, Fergana, Andizhan, Samarkand--and denigrates the same product prepared just a few streets away. Why, in fact, is sour milk found quite often in the packages from the Tashkent dairy, and why does it "settle" when boiled? What are the reasons Kefir purchased in the store turns out on inspection to be a mixture of buttermilk and thin curds, liquid sour cream or bitter cottage cheese? Wherein lies the reason for the waste? I addressed this question to the chief engineer at the Tashkent Dairy Industry Production Association, N. Mukhitdinov, having prefaced our conversation with a candid acknowledgement: as just an ordinary purchaser I am in complete agreement with the opinion of our reader: this kind of situation with dairy products cannot be tolerated in a city of 2 million people.

"You see," he said, "we do not milk the cows ourselves. The dairy is supplied with milk from the kolkhoz and sovkhoz dairy farms in the oblast and although as a rule they do have refrigeration equipment most of it does not work... According to our information almost 180 refrigerators are broken down at those farms, mainly because of lack of specialists. And so most farms bring their milk into the association procurement points. There are 10 of them in Tashkent Oblast but, unfortunately, for various reasons the refrigeration equipment there is also malfunctioning. And, as is known, unrefrigerated milk quickly goes bad..."

Mukhitdinov looked at me attentively to see whether or not I had caught his meaning.

I had understood, sort of, but still, out of naivete I asked: "So, does this mean that the difficulty lies in the raw materials? But perhaps... it is imperfect technology or lack of capacity?"

"No, not at all!" the chief engineer snapped. "Our capacities make it possible to increase daily output from 200 to 300 tons, without reconstruction or extra personnel. As for the technology, it is at the required level here. True, the machines for heat sealing [termosvarka] of packages is not perfect: sometimes the packages leak. But they do not leak only in Tashkent."

Probably, I thought, we have misunderstood the reader Ibragimova. Just like the republic Ministry of Trade State Inspection Service, which this year has more than once rejected batches of pots of sour cream and milk and cottage cheese packages made in Tashkent amounting to thousands of items. They were mistaken by all accounts, just like those from the Uzbek State Committee for Standards who participated in the plan checks, who pointed out in official reports numerous cases of violations of production technology leading to a lower fat content and increased acidity in dairy products... Well, what about that part of the products that passed muster and was passed on as fit for sale? Why was it that this annoyed rather than pleased the people of Tashkent? I set out for the dairy with this question on my lips.

At seven in the morning the distribution of products from the dairy ramps was coming to an end, but several dozen vehicles were still waiting at two of the piers. The dispatchers and drivers were hauling metal crates with paper packages out of the refrigerator rooms, along with boxes of sour cream, cottage cheese and little cheeses. In order to avoid wearisome waiting in line many of the dispatchers drive to the dairy long before five o'clock. They are also the first to receive the products. But the benefits derived from this are few: the stores are still closed and there is no one to receive the goods that have been brought in such haste. Some kind of solution has been found for the milk: on the previous evening the stores have put out bottles by their doors. The drivers of the milk trucks, moving about during the night or the early hours of the morning, fill these bottles to the top, and the big-bellied bottles stand there in the oppressive summer nights of Tashkent, waiting for the arrival of the salespeople. You can imagine what this does for the freshness of the milk...

Meanwhile, the sour cream, the cottage cheese, the kefir, and even the milk poured into the bottles and packages suffer the same fate. In Tashkent only one-fifth of the vans allocated for the transportation of dairy produce are equipped with refrigeration equipment. It is hardly surprising that the contents of the unrefrigerated trucks often turn sour on the road.

This part of the dairy problem was explained to me by G. Mansurov, deputy chief of the Tashkent Gorispolkom Trade Administration:

"The trade organization bring in dairy products by the so-called self-delivery method. They do not have their own transportation so they must lease it, mainly from the No 3 Vehicle Combine, which does not provide refrigerated

vehicles. The drivers of the vehicles carry no responsibility for the quality of the products they deliver. And this method for the shipment of valuable and fast-spoiling food products is in direct contradiction of one of the paragraphs in the "Regulations for the Delivery of Consumer Goods." This paragraph directs that goods should be delivered to consignees within the same city as a centralized shipment by the transportation authority. This kind of centralized transportation authority has been operating in Tashkent for a long time, delivering bread products, meat products, nonalcoholic beverages, beer and wine to the stores--anything you like except dairy products. What a paradox!"

And so, a serious new argument. Transportation. A fruitless dispute on this question has been underway for years between the republic Ministry of Trade and the Tashkent Gorispolkom Main Administration for Trade on the one hand, and the republic Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry on the other. Arguments and counterarguments are put forward, conditions are set. But the cart with the sour milk is still here.

Who, then, is to blame for the inedible sour cream, the tasteless, runny cottage cheese, the poor-quality calmack? Just figure out where the milk went sour: at the dairy industry's Tashkent Dairy Production Association procurement point, at the dairy, or in the unsuitable tin body of the truck? Everyone is to blame... and no one. Convenient is it not?

But will this exposition of the question be to the liking of our reader Ibragimova? For her table there is no argument except for fresh, tasty milk and cottage cheese.

Problem Concerns Readers

Moscow NEDELYA in Russian No 42, 15-21 Oct 84 p 6

[Unattributed report: "To Stop the Milk from Going Sour"]

[Text] Let us recall the conversation. It concerned the problem associated with milk losses: it goes sour, it leaks from its packaging. This was discussed in the reportage entitled "Why Did the Milk Go Sour?" (NEDELYA No 28, 1984). The author of that piece had purchased a container of milk that he immediately had to throw away because it went sour long before he got it as far as his kitchen. It was the fifth in a month that he had had to throw away. That is a lot! Where is the milk going sour? In which link of the farm-dairy-store chain do the microbes get in? Taking up this question, the author traversed the entire "chain" and now he tells us what he saw.

It turned out to be an extremely topical subject. And as usual it was made up of comments, wishes, questions. And again, as usual the problem started to expand as new details accumulated. As one thing became clearer, another,

on the contrary, became more "shadowy." For example, it became clear that the dairies are poorly provided with refrigeration equipment, not because there is a shortage of such equipment but because... there is too much! More precisely, industry is producing too many kinds of refrigerators. As a result they are complicated to install and adjust, and it is complicated to insure a repair base and train repair specialists. They told us at VNIKTikhodprom [expansion unknown--ed] (there is such an institute operating under the Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry) that about 15,000 refrigeration units installed in agriculture are not in use precisely because of this: they are unable to repair the units and there are no spares. Naturally, a new question arises: why is this happening? The letters also answer this: no one at the farm is assigned as chief of the "cold." Far too many administrations are now involved in the operation of refrigeration equipment.

They told us about another reason why the milk goes sour: the existing State Standard contains a provision that allows milk to stand for 1 hour without cooling. An obvious loophole for the microbes! And then, just go and find out how much time has actually elapsed since the milking! One hour? One and a half? Two? Does this not completely nuffify the State Standard requirement?

In response to the question "Why Did the Milk Go Sour" as posed in the reportage, the editorial office received a letter from the USSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry, written by deputy minister V.N. Sergeyev. The letter states: "The ministry shares the viewpoint of the author, that providing the public with high-quality dairy products can be resolved only through the joint efforts of workers in agriculture, the dairy industry and the trade organizations. The first link in this chain is to improve the quality of the milk produced at the kolkhoz and sovkhoz dairy farms." Later we were informed that the USSR Ministry of Agriculture and the USSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry have confirmed a comprehensive standardization program designated "Cows Milk," which provides for the compilation and introduction into the state standard of additional indicators for the quality of milk (protein content, suitability for making cheese, heat resistance and so forth), together with documentation regulating the composition and feeding of livestock, and also improvements to existing control instruments and methods and the development of new ones.

Together with the agro-industrial complexes, the associations and enterprises of the dairy industry are taking steps to accelerate a switch to the centralized shipment of milk so as to complete this work during the 12th Five-Year Plan.

In order to insure observance of the standards and to settle the present disagreements between industry enterprises and the kolkhozes and sovkhozes in determining the quality indicators for the milk procured, in the opinion of the USSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry it would be advisable to set up interdepartmental laboratories. Proposals on this subject have already been introduced by the USSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry in the USSR Gosplan and the USSR Ministry of Agriculture.

The readers also have their proposals. Thus, comrade Yukel'son writes: "Packaging milk in one-liter containers is inconvenient for small families.

If you do not use it all at once, by the following day it has gone sour. Why are the 'pour-packs' not made in the half-liter size?"

And, indeed, why not? And reader Kunarev suggest that the production of dried milk be increased, which, he considers, is particularly good during the summer: "The problem of milk going sour is solved by itself." True, not everyone likes this kind of milk reconstituted from powder, and accordingly most readers are interested in attempts being made somehow to reduce waste of whole milk.

We reply that this is being done. This question was the subject of a review in the USSR Council of Ministers. Appropriate instructions were issued, aimed at promoting increased output and better quality for packaged dairy products.

We see that the problem of leaking milk has been given the most serious attention. And this is not happenstance: milk losses resulting from poor packaging, shipment, marketing and storage amount to 2,700 tons annually!

Virtually all the metal containers being used at enterprises are now being replaced with plastic containers, and this has somewhat reduced losses. Reduced them, but not stopped them: losses occur mainly because of the poor quality of packaging equipment and paper, and sometimes because of a careless attitude toward the matter--someone failed to notice something in good time, did not look, did not learn.

Readers draw attention to the fact that trade workers take rather more care of the milk bottle than the paper package. Incidentally, the role of the bottle as a milk container will grow in the years immediately ahead. This year more than 600 million bottles will be produced. The latest lines will be installed for milk bottling. A lightweight version of the bottle has been developed. In 1985 modernization will be completed on equipment to produce this container.

And what about the paper containers? They will remain "in force." True, the packages will now be rectangular and made from cardboard. The chemical industry is taking steps to improve the quality of the coatings used for coated milk containers. New composite coatings have been developed.

Special attention is being paid to automatic vending machines that pour milk into a container. Old equipment is gradually being replaced with new. We are told that the provision of spares for packaging equipment is also being improved, and from 1985 a system of centralized spares distribution will go into operation.

We see that the question "Why Did the Milk Go Sour?" has not only received a number of answers but has also been accompanied by a number of specific measures. Well, their effectiveness and force will depend largely on how all those involved one way or another with the production of that troublesome and delicate product milk do their work.

9642
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FOOD PROCESSING AND DISTRIBUTION

SHORTCOMINGS IN PUBLIC CATERING FACILITIES DESCRIBED

Moscow NEDELYA in Russian No 50, 10-16 Dec 84 p 7

[Article by Alyevtina Solov'yeva: "Are There Enough Vegetables for the Month?"]

[Text] No. Vegetable supplies permit the public catering enterprises to prepare tasty, light and nourishing dishes all year long. But why do the dining halls, cafeterias and restaurants not have these dishes?

For the appetizer there was a carrot and apple salad; then a vegetable puree soup and a cheese cake; an omelette with cabbage and small rosy pancakes with apples. And for dessert, there was a beetroot beverage with lemon and an apple with thick whipped cream. The dinner was a complete success: it was tasty, inexpensive and very satisfying; though there was no meat dish. In a word, the patrons at the Arbat Restaurant in Moscow were extremely pleased. The culinary specialists made notes in their notebooks and wrote comments in the guest book such as, "Any variety of this meal would be suitable for a dietetic dining room".

And they gathered here to taste the vegetable and fruit dishes put together by the Moscow restaurant trust.

At the entrance to the culinary store attached to the restaurant, posters urgently invited the patrons: "We are observing a month-long sale of vegetable dishes and semi-finished products" and "We invite you to our vegetable bazaar". But the best advertisement was the product itself. The counters at the store were groaning with Russian salads, lettuce, cabbage meat pies and small pumpkin pancakes, baked apples and beets with garlic.

An extensive sales exhibit of dishes and fruit and vegetable items was held in all rayons of the capital. Extensive--means increased volumes and intensive work at the culinary shops. At the culinary store attached to the Arbat alone, eight shops were working: they prepared over 100 kg of Russian salad for the day. And it sold out completely.

But when the month-long sale ended and they took down the colorful posters the holiday was over, and everyday life resumed. So I dropped in on several Moscow dining rooms, cafes and restaurants and took a look at the menus. During the month-long sale, there were tomatoes, radishes and

lettuce, green cabbage soup, stuffed vegetable marrow, and all kinds of cabbage... But today they have the usual, and, so to speak, the out of season dishes--jello, pea soup, solyanka, cutlets and chicken tabak, and stewed dried fruit. But where have the vegetables gone which they urged on us so insistently yesterday? Winter has only just begun; the fruit and vegetable farms are reporting on how they successfully put up their products for winter storage. Well then, where are they, these products?

For an explanation I turned to the chief dietician at the Moscow restaurant trust, L. Lushkina, who is directly responsible for organizing that tasting exhibit which everyone liked so much.

"We've been given a task: to prove that a meal can be tasty and nourishing even without meat. And we showed what to do and how to do it in order to make it tasty, inexpensive, attractive and nourishing. Judging from the comments, we succeeded".

"But if one judges by today's menu at the dining rooms, cafes and restaurants and not by the special month"?

"Unfortunately, our recommendations and only recommendations. The bases of Mosplodovoshchprom [Moscow Fruit and Vegetable Industry Administration] have reduced deliveries to the public catering enterprises even for the so-called sufficient items--beets, cabbage, carrots, onions. And they've reduced them for the simple reason that there is not enough production capacity for processing the vegetables. And you know the cooks do not like to prepare vegetables: it's not profitable! Let's take stuffed cabbage, for example (a marvelous dish, by the way), which costs 80 kopeks. But the bother of it: you have to scald them, peel off the leaves, put in the stuffing, form them into heads, cook them, then stew them in sour cream--just imagine how much time that takes! It's not like tossing a cutlet into a frying pan... And they don't pay the cook for the amount of time he spends preparing a meal, but on the goods turnover--the faster he prepares a dish and the more costly, the better. And this is why we always see on the menu either meat, or chicken--in all their varieties, with various sauces. Thus far the problem has not been solved for providing incentives to the cooks who prepare vegetables; the profitability of some dishes and the unprofitability of others dictates their rules.

"But why is this problem not being solved?" I asked at the labor and wages administration of Mintorg [Ministry of Trade], USSR.

"What do you mean, its not being solved?" V. Agal'tsova, the department chief retorted in surprise. It's been seven years already since we sent a circular letter from Mintorg USSR to all the republic ministries and to the central committees of the branch trade unions, on new wage rates for cooks, which take into consideration both the amount of work required to prepare dishes, and the time standards. And in those places where the wage rates are used, the cooks do not come off the loser: let's say for example, for Russian salad--its a complicated dish but it's inexpensive--they receive just as much for it as for fried rabbit. Unfortunately, they are not using

these wage rates everywhere. In Kazakhstan, for example, they took them up right away: the scientific organization of labor lab at the republic's ministry of trade factored in the local peculiarities, worked out recommendations for the public catering enterprises, and started to analyze their work on the basis of the new wage rates. This form of paying cooks is spreading rapidly to the Ukraine, to Belorussia and to Lithuania--which one cannot say, it would seem, about 'vegetable' republics such as Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia".

"But what's stopping it"?

"In the localities the administrators have the right to select the form of wages for cooks which they consider most convenient and profitable. And the special wage rates make the bookkeepers' work more complicated; after all, they have to set up a separate account for each type of product. And this in turn means that you can no longer cover up a shortage in one kind of product by virtue of an excess of another kind--any inspector would notice this immediately in the documents. But, well, the main thing is that it is not profitable for the catering enterprises to prepare vegetable dishes: they are inexpensive, and because of them the turnover plan suffers. And thus, it turns out that the new wage rates are profitable for the cooks, but for the enterprises as a whole--they are not. In order for them to become profitable for the enterprise, new equipment has to be introduced for processing the vegetables, the skills of the cooks have to be raised, strict accounting for production must be imposed, and the bookkeepers must be trained to use the new wage rates".

It's quite a thorough response, no doubt about it. Everything, it seems, is there--the instructions are there, the norms are there, and even those responsible for not doing the job. Only one thing is lacking--there are no vegetables on the table at the public catering enterprises. Of course, the experience of the public catering workers in Kazakhstan, Belorussia, the Ukraine, and Lithuania, who have overcome their dependence on the celebrated gross output in the form of goods turnover, makes one optimistic. And still, the way to bringing vegetables to the dining rooms, cafes and restaurants has been open for seven years already. Is it not time to go from recommendations, letters, and desires to decisions, binding on every enterprise supervisor? We shall address this question to the USSR Ministry of Trade.

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